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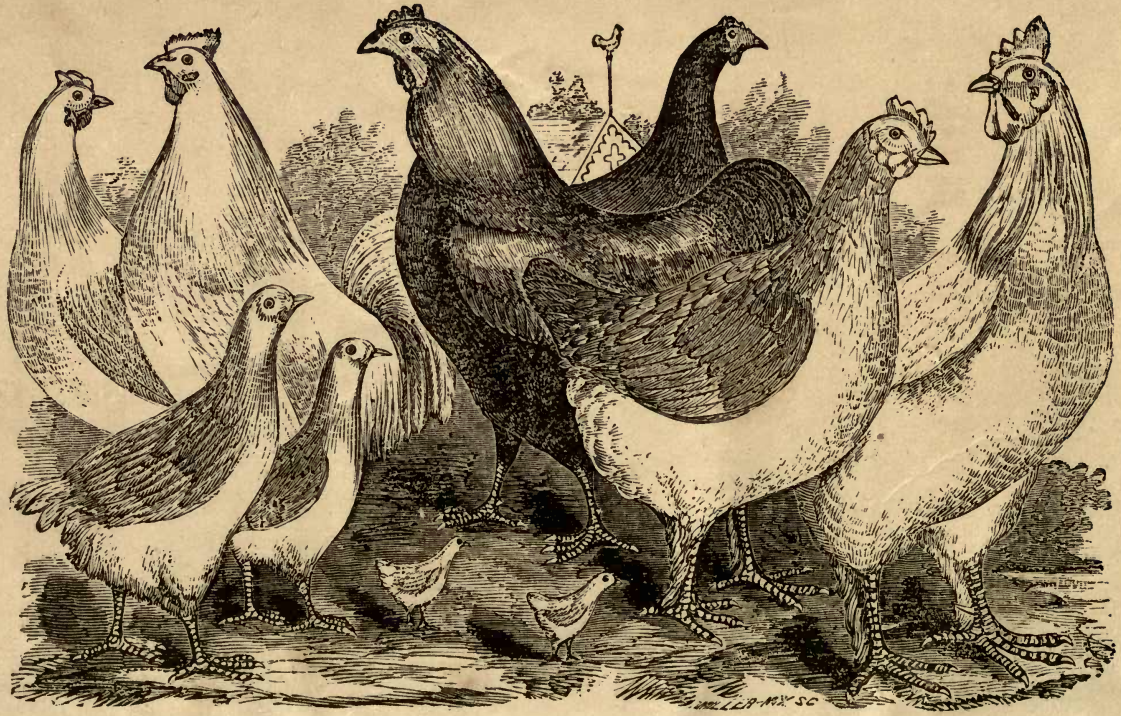

MINER'S

DOMESTIC POULTRY BOOK:

A TREATISE ON THE

HISTORY, BREEDING, AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT

OF

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC FOWLS,

BY

T. B. MINER,

Author of the "American Bee-keeper's Manual," & Editor of the "Northern Farmer."

EMBRACING

All the late Importations of Fowls, and being descriptions by the best Fowl Fanciers in the United States, of all the most valuable breeds, with the Author's extensive experience as a breeder, together with selected matter of interest, comprising, as it is believed, the most complete and authentic work on the subject ever published.

ILLUSTRATED BY NUMEROUS PORTRAITS FROM LIFE.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

PUBLISHED BY GEO. W. FISHER,

ALSO, A. S. BARNES & Co., NEW YORK.—B. B. MUSSEY, BOSTON. J. W. MOORE, PHILADELPHIA.—J. B. STEELE, NEW ORLEANS.—H. W. DERBY, CINCINNATI.

1853.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

THE undersigned, feeling deeply interested in the improvement of our Domestic Poultry, and in the introduction of valuable foreign breeds; and believing that the public require a faithful, practical, and reliable treatise on the subject, covering the entire ground which hitherto has not been consummated, in consequence of the sudden and extensive influx of new breeds of fowls, most cheerfully recommends the present work of T. B. MINER, Esq., as one embracing most of the breeds worthy of especial notice, and far more complete than any work that has preceded it. Many of the most valuable breeds, of which full histories are given in Mr. Miner's book, were comparatively unknown in America, even so late as the publication of "The Poultry Book." That the sources from which Mr. Miner has derived the most of his matter as shown forth in his Treatise, are reliable and of a character to ensure a great popularity for his book, I can freely attest. His correspondents are mostly known to me as honorable, well informed, and extensive breeders, and, as the Author of a work on the same subject—"The Poultry Book,"—and with the most extensive means of judging of the merits of such productions, I can truly say that Mr. Miner's work is the most *reliable*, *practical*, and *complete* that now exists in the English or any other language, on the same subject.

Mr. Miner's book contains *all* the practical information which I intended to embody in the subsequent editions of my Poultry Book, and I, therefore, advise all of my friends who have been expecting from *me* a new and improved work, to avail themselves of Mr. Miner's Treatise, as I shall not publish any future edition of my book.

JOHN C. BENNETT, M. D.,
Author of "The Poultry Book."

FORT DES MOINES, POLK COUNTY, IOWA,
December, 1852.

Dr. Bennett resides at present (Jan., 1853,) at Great Falls, N. H., but he contemplates removing to Iowa early next spring, consequently he dates from the latter place.

T. B. M.

INTRODUCTION.

The business of poultry raising in this country has now become an object of great importance. Indeed it has ever been a matter of importance; but more particularly so now, because within the last five years many new breeds and varieties of fowls have been introduced, either directly from foreign lands, or from the yards of our own poultry breeders, many of which have proved much superior to our native breeds. A feeling of public interest has been awakened on this subject, never before known; and this has led many persons to regard the subject of poultry breeding as a *science* worthy of their study and research. People have suddenly awakened from the slumber of ages, to the fact, that this branch of rural economy is susceptible of the same advances to perfection, as the breeding of any other class of live stock.

The raising of poultry as a *business*, sufficient to employ one's whole time, is also receiving some attention; and the desire to ascertain what are the special difficulties in the way to such a business, and how they may be removed, seems to be prevalent to some extent. Hitherto but very few persons in the United States have attempted the keeping of poultry on a large scale. I presume, however, that such a business is not only practicable, but may be made profitable, when rightly managed.

Poultry raising is certainly profitable when kept even on a moderate scale. Of this there is not a doubt in the minds of those who have tested the question properly. I did myself, when a resident of Ravenswood, Long Island, experiment to considerable extent in keeping large numbers of fowls. I have ever been from my youth up fascinated with rural employments, and especially with the raising and management of poultry. My experience has been of that kind that will enable me to speak understandingly on many points.

Perhaps the public may expect that I should give them the reasons why I write this Treatise, when we already have some five or six works by American authors on the same subject.

In the first place it may be remarked, that we have no work on this subject, as it appears to me, sufficiently *practical.* I may not be an impartial judge of this question, but from a careful perusal of the various works extant, I have been forcibly led to form such a conclusion.

Secondly, such works as we have that are worthy of consideration, are, I think, too prosy on subjects not immediately connected with the interests—the *pockets* of the American public. We are a go-a-head people, and as a general thing, we read more for profit than for pleasure; and therefore, when we purchase a Treatise on "Domestic Poultry," we look to the practical part of it for a remuneration of what it costs. Occasionally a gentleman of leisure will desire a *full* and scientific illustration of all the minor points pertaining to the subject; but the great mass of the people desire a plain, compact Treatise, that is *to the point* on all matters relating to the successful management of poultry. In my opinion these works occupy too much space with the writings of *ancient authors* and modern *foreign* writers generally. We have our own skillful breeders of poultry, whose experience is unsurpassed, and whose opinions are far more valuable to the people of the United States than those of foreign writers on this subject.

Thirdly, the march of *mind* at the present day is *onward;* and *progress,* of course, is the result. Hence where there is a chance of improvement in any thing which exists among us, the opportunity is quickly embraced. Now I think a new work on the practical management of poultry is much needed, in order to keep pace with the new developments in regard to the various species of fowls which are creating so great an excitement. Indeed, it is impossible to obtain through the publications of the day on this subject any thing beyond a *mere fraction* of the important information *now* existing among us.

Since these Treatises were published, numerous importations of new and rare breeds of fowls have been made at a great cost, the descriptions of which nowhere appear in the works now before us. Now, it will be, not only my aim to improve in the *matter,* but also in the *price* of my work. The books of the present day, that are of any merit on the subject of poultry, are sold at *one dollar.* The price of this work will show that I have a regard for the *pockets* of my read-

ers, as well as for their brains; since, it actually contains as much matter as the *Dollar Works.*

Lastly, I give as a reason, that I write in hopes of receiving a compensation; at least, in some measure, for my time spent in the production of this work. "The laborer is worthy of his hire," and I hope to benefit myself, while I benefit my fellow-men. I give you the result of a life spent in the pleasing occupations of the fowl-yard, to a great extent, in connection with other branches of rural economy. I give you the essence of all the works of the day of any merit. Where compilation has been necessary, it has been divested of vague and undefined hypotheses, and of all other useless matter: the wheat being thus gleaned and sifted from the chaff.

The rapid growth of our cities and large towns is daily increasing the demand for poultry and eggs; and this demand will continue to increase, and hence it is highly important that farmers, and all other persons who can keep fowls, should awake to the advantages of procuring the most profitable kinds, and to learning the best methods of management, that they may realize the greatest annual profits.

The quantity of eggs consumed daily in the city of New York is not less than four hundred barrels, or about 400,000 eggs! Some of the large hotels in that city use about two hundred dozen per day. In a year the enormous number of 146,000,000 eggs are sold there, worth, at least, $2,000,000, taking the high prices of winter into the account. The sales of poultry and eggs amount to about $3,000,000!

The sale of eggs in Boston in 1849, amounted to about $1,000,000! So say the Committee of Supervision of the great Poultry Fair, held in that city in November, 1849.

The value of poultry in the State of New York, according to the latest census returns, is about $2,500,000, and in the whole United States, $15,000,000.

Are not these facts sufficient to arouse the public mind to the importance of raising poultry and eggs? Our Railroads can now carry poultry 500 miles to market in about twenty hours; yet with all the new facilities for rapid transportation, both poultry and eggs continue to rise in value.

It will also be my special aim to give the most *reliable* information in regard to fowls that can possibly be obtained. My correspondence with the breeders in this country is very extensive; and I can assure the public that no labor, nor expense has been spared, to furnish a book in which they can put the utmost confidence. That the work will

have errors of type, of history, and of judgment, I cannot doubt. Perhaps no human work on any subject is free from error of some kind; and I shall not claim infallibility in this Treatise. I shall use the writings of others moderately where the subject I am treating on will be elucidated thereby; and I hope no one will be able to accuse me of not giving the proper credit, as has been the case with other writers on this subject who have preceded me. I shall also discard much of the matter now existing in the pages of my predecessors, which seems to be of little practical value, but inserted apparently, for the want of more important matter to help to fill up and swell their volumes to the *dollar size*. Truth demands this assertion, however harshly it may grate upon the ears of the writers of the works referred to. It is too often the practice of the present day to extend a little matter to a great *sized* volume, in order to command a higher price. We often see large books with small pages, and broad margins, and the types large and *leaded*, that is, the lines wide apart; and in this manner purchasers are made to pay for large books at high prices, when their contents may just as well be condensed into books of half the size, and sold at half the price. The pages of this work are equal in size to the *dollar works* on this subject, but not so much margin is allowed, and by using small type to a great extent, and setting it solid, the work is in a form that admits of its being retailed at the low price of fifty cents in paper covers. In the arrangement of the various breeds of poultry, I wish it to be understood, that I do not give particular breeds a precedence over others in regard to their value, in consequence of such breeds being presented *first* in the work. Nor do I attempt to form any particular classification on the score of genealogy.

No work of value on Domestic Poultry can be produced without comprising the Essays of gentlemen engaged in rearing fowls. That some of these Essays may be rather highly colored for interested purposes, is quite probable; yet this is the only way in which we can get information from those who breed them. And if they desire to effect sales of their own particular breeds by publishing glowing accounts of them, we must make due allowance for these things, when and where we think best.

It has been my endeavor to procure information from gentlemen of known probity and standing in society; and I am happy to say, if that which I now impart from my correspondents, is not correct, we may consider it utterly impossible to obtain correct information on the

subjects now treated on. My correspondents stand high in the estimation of the society where they live; and for my own part, I do not believe that one of them has uttered an expression in regard to any breed of fowls in which he was not sincere, or by which he intended, from interested motives, to deceive the public. Reliance may be placed on the information communicated by them. Indeed all the sources from which statements are made, or arguments drawn in this work, may be regarded as correct, and entitled to the credence of the public.

I may be permitted at the close of these introductory remarks, simply and briefly to state, that my great object in writing this Treatise on Poultry is to produce facts not theories; truths, not fancies, on an interesting branch of rural economy, and hence to communicate such reliable information as will be calculated to benefit the public.

Whether I have *done so*, it is not for me to say. This I shall submit to the judgment of the public, and let them decide.

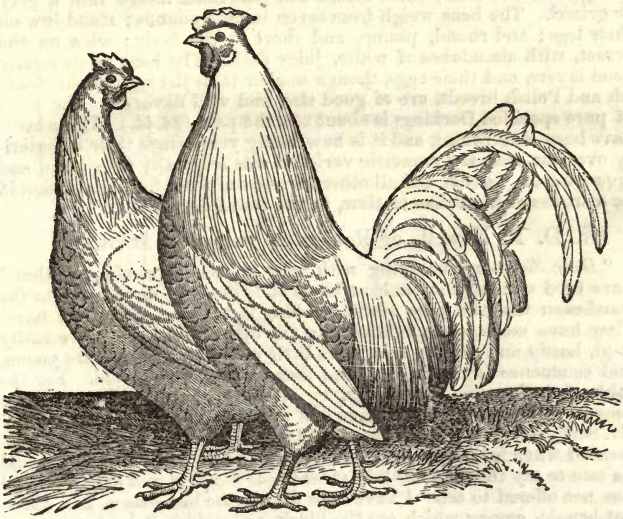
All new and important matter will appear in subsequent editions of this work, as often as shall be deemed necessary; in the meantime, the "*Northern Farmer*" will be the means of transmission to the public.

THE AUTHOR.

CLINTON, Oneida Co., N. Y.

PART I.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DIFFERENT BREEDS AND VARIETIES OF DOMESTIC FOWLS.



WHITE DORKINGS.

The Dorkings originated in Dorking, England, and were originally a pure white. Subsequently the colored Dorkings were produced in Surrey, England, from a cross with the Malay, as it is asserted, but without positive evidence of the alleged fact.

The pure Dorkings have a supernumerary toe; but the existence of the fifth toe is not always evidence of the fowl being of this breed.

The cuts here shown are portraits from life of fowls owned by Dr. Eben Wight, of Dedham, Mass., a gentleman well known

as an experienced importer and breeder of fowls. It is said that white Dorkings are nearly extinct in England, and that the colored varieties are highly esteemed. It is quite probable that this is true—not from the alleged fact, that the colored varieties are better, but from the positive fact that people are generally so careless, that they cannot, or will not keep any breed long in its purity.

Richardson, an English author, says:

"The color of the Dorking is generally pure white, spotted or spangled with black; these colors will sometimes merge into a grey or grizzel. The hens weigh from seven to nine pounds; stand low on their legs; and round, plump, and short in the body; wide on the breast, with abundance of white, juicy flesh. The hens are generally good layers, and their eggs, though smaller than the eggs of the Spanish and Polish breeds, are of good size, and well flavored. The price of pure speckled Dorkings is about 20s. the pair, ($4.44.) These birds have been long prized, and it is now many years since their superiority over our ordinary domestic varieties was originally discovered and appreciated. In this, and all other varieties of fowl, fresh blood should be introduced from time to time, or the breed degenerates."

Mr. D. P. Newell, of Rochester, writes as follows:

"*Dear Sir,*—In complying with your request, I would say, that I have bred some of the choicest kinds of fowls, and have come to the conclusion that the pure white Dorking is the best breed we have. They have more good qualities than any other fowl. They are easily kept, hardy and easy to rear, have little waste of offal, mature young, and commence laying when from four to five months old. For the table, I believe, it is conceded by all discriminating epicures that they have not an equal. I have one white Dorking hen imported by Mr. Scott, of Victor, which has layed for nine months past. She commenced when four months old and is laying now. I believe it would be safe to say that she has laid at least *one hundred and fifty eggs*, and has not offered to set. I have kept during the last season, five different breeds, among which are the black and golden Polands; but my pure white Dorkings have laid better than any breed. The fawn-colored Dorking is doubtless a cross between the white Dorking and Malay. I have raised the speckled and fawn-colored Dorkings this season from the above crosses. The speckled Dorking is also a cross between the golden Poland, and the white Dorking. My chickens have the fifth toe, and other usual marks of the Dorking fowl. I have Dr. Eben Wight's and Mr. Scott's importations, and shall breed them with great care, selecting a cock from one importation, and a hen from the other; and I have yet to be convinced that the world can produce any thing superior to the *White Surrey Dorkings.*"

Maine, a foreign writer, says:

"The most valuable variety for the table at present is the Dorking breed. This is pure white; and highly esteemed for whiteness and

delicacy of flesh when served at table. They also fetch a high price at market. Among breeders, real Dorking cocks sell for from five to ten shillings (sterling) each. This breed makes an excellent stock for the farm or market. They fat well, lay well, and rear well; are handsome alive, and show delicately white and advantageous when plucked and dressed for market. Their feathers also being fine and of good color, can be substituted many of them for geese feathers, consequently they bring a higher price."

In all the writings that have appeared in this country on poultry, the Dorkings have, I believe, never been spoken of but in terms of high commendation. George P. Burnham, Esq., of Boston, in the New England Cultivator, says:

"The origin of the Dorking fowl is generally conceded to the town of Dorking, Surrey County, England, where for a century and a half, this variety has been kept and bred in great purity. The best fowls known there, are *purely white* in color—with rose combs, flesh-colored legs and bills, and five toes. There are other fowls in England, as well as in this country, which are *called* Dorkings—for the reason that the white fowl has become so deservedly popular, and so saleable; but these last named are generally a mixture of the white fowl with the native breeds, or a cross of the noble white Dorking with the old 'Surrey' fowl (so called,) or some other mongrel.

"The best authorities on poultry give the name of 'Dorking' to the *white* variety—that these are a *large* fowl, however, we believe, is *not* claimed for the Dorking, generally. We have never seen a pair of them that would weigh over eight to eight and a half pounds for the cock, and five to six pounds for the hen. They possess remarkable good qualities, however, in other respects; and have their advocates, very decidedly, among fanciers and breeders. Dr. Wight, we believe, was one of the first who imported these fowls from England into the United States.

"In form, the Dorking is compact, short-legged, possessing very little offal, and is a handsome modeled bird. The hens are excellent layers, and the very best of mothers, always. They are moderate feeders, and for the table are very choice—the meat of this fowl being short-grained, juicy and daintily flavored.

"There has been an attempt, with one or two breeders in this region, to palm off upon the unsophisticated, a cross between the white Dorking or the 'Surrey' fowl, with the Great Malay, or other Chinese bird—a mongrel, which has been denominated for the time being, the '*speckled* Dorking' or the '*grey* Dorking,' but with very indifferent success. The fanciers who tried this experiment, have given it up; and so we will only quote the following authorities in regard to the *color* of the Dorkings, and leave the speculators in 'grey Dorkings' to get out of their permanent investments as best they may!

"A correspondent of Dr. Kerr, in his late 'Domestic Poultry,' thinks the only color which is thrown by the thorough-bred Dorking, is *white;* with white legs and bills, and a fifth toe. He adds that the white Dorkings have been largely bred "in-and-in," and have never

varied in color. Mowbray, Dickson, Maine, and other known authors, contend that white is the true color for the purely-bred Dorking.

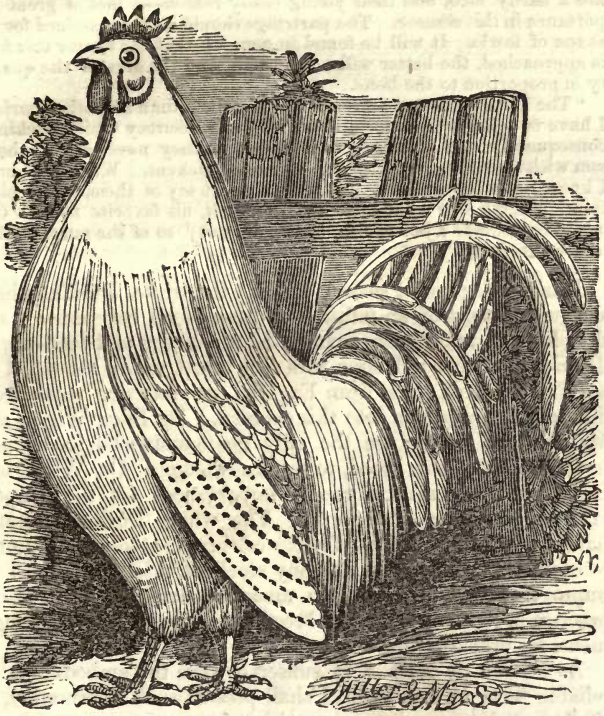
"Mr. Nolan, of Dublin, in his recent work, speaking of the Chittagong fowl, says that 'their plumage is speckled grey, and there is no doubt of their being crossed on the Dorking, which fowl they resemble in shape, and then *produce what is denominated the grey Dorking.*' Here we have Mr. Nolan's assertion, who is considered one of the very best informed men on poultry in the world, that the 'grey' or 'speckled Dorking' is nothing but a *cross* of the white Dorking with the Malay or Chittagong.

"A few so called 'speckled' Dorkings have been imported from England, latterly, by enthusiastic fanciers, but we are informed that they give very little satisfaction, upon a more intimate acquaintance, and that these gentlemen are ready to fall back upon their original fowls, the white variety, after giving the others a fair trial.

"There are very few varieties so highly prized as are these, and none excel them for all the good qualities desired in a domestic fowl."

The following is from Mr. H. V. N. Dimmick, a breeder of experience at Hubbard's Corners, Madison Co., N. Y. He refers to colored Dorkings in his allusion to Mr. Rotch's stock:

"I was very much gratified to see a true description of the 'Dorking fowl' in the January number of the Northern Farmer; so that those who are anxious to obtain that very valuable fowl, may be the better able to judge of what they are about to purchase. I have raised the 'Dorkings' some three or four years. I have them from both Mr. Rotch and Dr. Wight's stock; and in regard to flesh, I think they cannot be surpassed, nor even equaled, although I think they are not as good as many other fowls in regard to laying properties alone, but both combined, they are truly a valuable fowl."



Mr. Newell, the owner of the Dorking fowl here represented, in a subsequent communication, writes as follows:

"The above portrait was drawn from life, and is a correct representation of my pure white Surrey Dorking rooster: these fowls have long, round and large, plump bodies, with a broad, full chest, like a partridge. Both the crower and hen are invariably white, from bill to toe. Abundant proof is furnished by Mowbray, W. B. Dickson, and others. They have been the choice market fowl in England for the last twenty years, and in this country they hold the same rank among poultry which the Durhams do among cattle. They will produce more weight in eggs and flesh, and of a better quality, than any other variety on the same amount of food; and as sitters and mothers cannot be surpassed by any other breed of fowls. Dr. E. Wight, of Mas-

sachusetts, of whom I obtained part of my Dorkings, remarks that they are a hardy bird, and their young easily reared—a fact of great importance in this climate. The partridge should be the standard for the shape of fowls. It will be found in general, that the nearer this form is approached, the better will be the flesh, and the greater the quantity in proportion to the bone.

"The Dorking comes nearer to this standard than any other variety. I have two different importations of the pure Surrey white Dorkings; consequently, my fowls are not related, as they never should be, if you wish for strong, healthy and vigorous chickens. When well bred, I know not a better fowl. In truth, I might say of them, as the pious ISAAC WALTON was wont to say of the trout, his favorite fish:—'God might have made a better fish, but he did not;' so of the pure, unadulterated Dorking."

During the present season, (1852,) the white Dorkings have shown the want of an infusion of fresh blood very much; and they have in many cases manifested a delicacy and tendency to deterioration that will soon ruin this breed, unless remedied by sending for fresh stock from England, or procuring stock from different importations into this country. Dr. Eben Wight, and Mr. Scott of Victor, are the only gentlemen who have made importations of this breed, to my knowledge. Dr. Wight has, I believe, made several recent importations for the purpose of remedying the above evil. The white Dorkings that I have raised are from Dr. Wight's celebrated stock, yet I cannot recommend them, nor indeed any stock of this breed, until an improvement shall have been made by avoiding the ruinous practice of a close in-and-in breeding. I have made arrangements for procuring fresh blood.

As I have no interest to subserve, save the embodiment of reliable facts in this work, I shall present such information, as shall come into my possession, either from my own experience, or otherwise, that will give a truthful description of all the various breeds, and varieties of fowls among us, so far as I am capable of doing, however much it may clash with the opinions of other writers. That *all* white Dorkings have degenerated, I am not prepared to say; but my own have, and I have learned of numerous instances that sufficiently corroborate my statements, to satisfy me that I may safely say, that this breed has generally become so delicate in this country, from the causes before mentioned, that they are not a desirable breed to rear for profit, either as a market or table fowl. That the quality of the flesh of the white Dorking is of the most tender, juicy and fine flavor, there is no doubt, neither is there any doubt as to

their *shape* being a model for all fowl fanciers to seek for; but under the circumstances, I think it for the interest of the public to cross them with any good breed till fresh blood shall be attainable, rather than to attempt to breed them pure. If Mr. Newell, our correspondent, or Dr. Wight can furnish fowls that shall be hardy, and of their original beauty, compactness and weight, and not suffering from a want of fresh blood, then I have nothing to say; but I am satisfied in my own mind that they cannot do it, unless it be from recent importations. There is obviously a tendency in white Dorkings of pure blood to *deteriorate*, or to become less hardy and vigorous, and consequently more liable to debility and sickness, and this important fact regarding them should be made known, that the public may be able to form a correct opinion respecting these fowls. In justice to Mr. Newell, however, I will say, that his opinion on this subject is changed from what it was, so far as regards the necessity of obtaining fresh blood, when he furnished the preceding articles for the Northern Farmer, (see advertisement of this publication in the back of this work,) from which a portion of the matter contained in this Treatise is copied, and he has taken measures, I believe, to reinstate his stock in vigor and change of blood. These fowls now command from $5 to $10 a pair, and eggs from $3 to $5 per dozen.

SPECKLED DORKINGS.

This breed, or variety of fowls possess the general characteristics of the white Dorking to a great extent, except *color;* and are so much akin to them, that I have not thought it expedient to procure cuts of them. The cut that follows on page 24, representing the Surrey fowl, may be said to be a true portrait of this breed, as well as of the fowl it is intended to represent.

It is yet a disputed point, how these fowls originated. Some fowl fanciers contend that they are a pure *breed*, and will produce their like, while others assert that they originated in a cross, and therefore should be termed a *variety.* It will not be my object to treat at length on any of the numerous disputed points pertaining to fowls, of no immediate, or particular importance to the American breeder, but to come direct to the point, and show what the fowls *are*, not what they *were.* I have no room for such matter, unless I run out my pages to an extent that would produce a too large and too expensive work; hence

I have omitted the usual long, dull, and uninteresting introduction that generally precedes the practical matter in works of this kind, treating of the *origin*, &c., of the gallinaceous tribes, which must of necessity be mere speculation, inasmuch as the truth can never be developed.

L. F. Allen, Esq., of Black Rock, N. Y., was among the first, if not *the* first person who imported the speckled Dorkings into this country. He has bred them some ten years, and has kept them pure, if they can be called a pure breed. They must, however, now be considered a pure breed, I think, or they would have degenerated and "cried back" to their progenitors. Crosses generally when bred in-and-in, will rapidly degenerate, and sooner or later run into the breeds from which they originated, or show the main characteristics of such breeds. This is termed "crying back." To produce in time, a *pure* breed from a *cross*, is asserted by some writers as possible to effect, and if so, the speckled Dorkings are probably an instance of such a result.

Mr. Allen is still rapturous in praise of his speckled Dorkings as a *table* fowl. He challenges the whole country to show Dorkings with him. He exhibited his best specimens at the New York State Fair at Rochester, in September, 1851, and took the premium on that breed.

He writes me under date of April 20th, 1851:

"The Dorking fowls are no better than the *well selected* common fowls of our own country, in any respect, except their fine, full, compact, broad bodies, as an article of food. For that they exceed any other fowls I ever saw. They are tender, do not lay so well, and are less prolific than the others."

Here we have the whole story in a nut-shell, so far as pertains to the colored Dorkings. The authority is the best in the country—from ten years' experience, and from one who was some two years endeavoring to obtain his stock in England, through his agent there, because he would have none but the best in Surrey, and the breeders had formed an alliance for the purpose of preventing any of the breed leaving the country alive.

These fowls have the extra fifth toe, as well as the white Dorkings, but crosses will also produce this extra toe, hence it is difficult for the purchaser to ascertain whether the fowls he wishes to buy are pure, or not. I have no hesitation in saying, that a large portion of all the various fowls in this country alleged to be pure, are more or less tinctured with cross-

ed blood, and purchasers should be very careful, and select fowls from breeders of well known reputation. Purchasers will often procure *half* breeds, or other crosses, at a low price, and when they get them home, pronounce them the real "*Simon pures*," and thus the character of the really pure and good fowl is made to suffer.

The weight of speckled Dorkings is somewhat heavier than that of the white breed; that is, the *best* specimens; say about eight pounds for a cock, and five to six for a pullet, still there are some that exceed this weight.

They are also tender, but not so delicate as a large portion of the white Dorkings among us. Their flesh is excellent, and their shape nearly, if not quite up to the model white Dorkings.

The combs of both breeds are sometimes single, and sometimes double, the double comb being the result of too long in-and-in breeding, as is asserted; but I am not prepared to fully endorse this allegation.

The following article is from Francis Rotch, Esq., the well known importer and breeder of this kind of fowls. It was furnished for this work, and the Northern Farmer. Mr. Rotch states in a private note that "he has no desire to make sales." I allude to this fact to show, that what he asserts is not stated from interested motives:

MORRIS, Otsego Co., N. Y., Sept. 4, 1852

Dear Sir,—I infer from the frequent statements and remarks upon poultry, published in the agricultural journals, that much interest continues to be felt on the subject; and any information I may offer in reply to your inquiries, though late, may not be out of time. Not that I have much to say beyond a remark or two which may correct the attempt lately made by the Boston fanciers, to rest the purity of the Dorking fowl on color, or rather on no color, and to rule out as mongrels all birds that do not happen to be *white!*

I may, perhaps, claim to be some authority in the case, inasmuch as my school days were passed in the County of Surrey; and my playground, when visiting at Bury-Hill, (the then residence of Robert Barclay, Esq.,) extended to the very outskirts of Dorking itself. From that early period to the present time, covering an interval of nearly fifty years, my experience has but confirmed my early preference in favor of the Dorking as a fowl of *general usefulness* and beauty—not so handsome, I must allow, as that ready swordsman, the swaggering, stylish game-cock, nor as those little, coquettish brunettes that are mated with him; still the Dorking is a quite stately, substantial fellow, and though his companions may not have the same pert,

jaunty air as the games, yet there is a house-keeping, satisfying look about them, a development that will go far in recommending them to the many.

You will perceive mine is not altogether the dollar and cent appreciation of a poulterer, but that I have a full value for the beautiful; a fancy, that is not satisfied with the tailless, booted breeds of India, shorn as they are of those beautiful and graceful plumes which, in all other varieties, give a balance to the bird, a justness to his proportions, and a stateliness to his every movement. In the little strutting, booted Bantam, a feathered leg may be all very well, and does but complete his foppishness, for he values them, and takes care of them; but the neglected and broken feathers on a long-limbed "Booby-fowl," do but increase the awkwardness of his appearance, and the clumsiness of his gait.

But to return to my more immediate subject, the "Dorking." There is in every thing a fashion; and when I was a youth, white was the aristocratic color *then* in vogue, not only for its beauty, but because it was less common than the darker colored. But in course of time these gave way to the stronger bird of more varied plumage which, then as now, was a larger, better constitutioned fowl; and proved a better subject for the disgusting process of "*cramming*"—a practice then in common use with those who fatted poultry for the London market.

As late as 1846, I was in the yards of the celebrated dealers in fancy poultry, the Messrs. Bakers, of Chelsea, and at No. 3, Half-Moon passage, London, and was there shown a lot of very fine *speckled* and *brown* Dorkings which I afterwards learned were intended for the exhibition of poultry, about to be held in the Zoological Garden. Is it to be supposed that such men would risk their reputation by exhibiting mongrels in so keen a competition as they were certain to encounter on that occasion? In 1845 I was present at one of the Societies' exhibitions, and saw there half a dozen cages of colored Dorkings to one of white.

But lest all this should not be evidence enough to satisfy the exclusives, I will quote for their benefit, from a work, the *second* edition of which appeared in 1823, entitled "A Picturesque Promenade round Dorking in Surrey." At page 100 will be found the following statements:

"An incredible quantity of poultry is usually sold at the weekly markets. This trade is chiefly in the hands of a few individuals who regularly attend and supply the London dealers. There is also a breed of fowls with five claws, well known among the poulterers in the metropolis by the appellation of Dorking fowls; one sort is perfectly white, and another of a partridge color. Columella in his Husbandry, describes fowls of this kind, and it is conjectured that they were originally brought here by the Romans."

Now, gentlemen of the hen-coop, I hope we shall hear no more about *white* Dorkings being the *only* pure birds of the breed. In my opinion, they will do very well if they can hold their own, in the more important points of a good fowl, with the colored Dorkings.

Yours, &c., R.

The following was communicated for the Northern Farmer, and not having space for its immediate publication, I insert it here, though the writer thought it a too off-handed production for a *book*, but I consider it just the thing. When we make a book, we should speak to our readers in a plain, familiar style, and not attempt to please by fine, flowery sentiments altogether. Furthermore I shall not follow the formal rules of a nice division and sub-division of all subjects pertaining to my work, but shall write as "the spirit moves me," taking no forethought of what I shall say, till the time shall arrive to transfer my sentiments to paper; and matter that would be appropriate in my Preface, may be found interspersed, in a few cases, through this work.

Mr. Editor,—The early history of the Dorking seems to be involved in uncertainty. From the best information that can be obtained, it appears that County Surrey, England, has for the last century been celebrated for a valuable breed of fowls. The town of Dorking, in this county, lays claim to the honor of having originated these beautiful birds—with how much right, it is difficult to say, as the only advantage in evidence this town has over the rest of the county, is, that it has given its name to the breed.

The point has been mooted in *this country*, that all Dorkings of pure blood, are *white*. I am able to find no authority for this opinion, and am inclined to think, that it is an assertion of those who have white fowls *only*. Of all the Dorkings [so called] that I have seen, the brown and speckled are vastly superior to any white breed.

A correspondent of the Northern Farmer, (Jan. 1st, 1852,) says: "The fawn-colored Dorking is doubtless a cross between the white Dorking and the Malay. I have raised the speckled and fawn-colored Dorkings this season, from the above crosses. The speckled Dorking is also a cross between the golden Poland and the white Dorking. My chickens have the fifth toe, and other usual marks of the Dorking fowl." Why could he not, with equal propriety, call his chickens five-toed Malays?

"Fawn-colored Dorkings" do you call them!! Would a breeder be justified in selling such mongrels for "fawn-colored Dorkings?" I think not. I quote from eminent *English* authority, the following:

"A man may take one cross without much permanent mischief; but if he attempts to produce a cross breed, it usually happens that the progeny possess the faults of both parents, instead of their merits. Besides this, he cannot look forward with anything like certainty to what any young may be."

One of the most beautiful birds I have ever seen, was a half-bred Dorking, with his ten toes on his two feet, but would any breeder purchase or sell such as a pure blood? If *such* crosses are "fawn-colored *Dorkings*," no wonder you say, "that not half the fowls that go by that name are worthy of that name." If the true variety is valuable, let it be preserved with its merits pure, and not kill the breed by breeding a fifth toe upon a dunghill, and dubbing them Dorkings!

Quoting from Mr. L. F. Allen, you give us "the whole story in a nut-shell." "The Dorking fowls are no better than the *well selected* common fowls of our own country, in any respect, except their fine, full, compact, broad bodies, as an article of food—for that they exceed any other fowls I ever saw; they are tender, do not lay so well, and are less prolific than the others." You say, "the authority, the best in the country." He gives the bird the credit of exceeding all others for the table—that, surely, is one great point. Now let us see what this same authority [Mr. L. F. Allen] says in the American Agriculturist, some time after his importation in 1841: "They are most excellent layers, good and steady setters, and kind, careful nurses." "The young have proved very hardy and easy to rear. The males, of which I imported two, are large, strong birds, and the hens are all I could desire of them. Their eggs are of a large size, clear, white and excellent in quality. Although in the depth of winter, with over a foot of snow on the ground, the hens lay daily, running out in the severest cold."

Now, Mr. Editor, you would hardly think that the above quotations were from the same pen, describing the same bird. Ten years' breeding should have improved, not degenerated the stock, particularly in the hands of an eminent breeder. I am happy to say, that Dorkings, as described, with all the good qualities that can be combined in one bird, viz: beauty, strength, fine flesh, good layers, and hardy, *can* be found in this country. I have no doubt but that Mr. Allen gives a full description of the Dorkings as they appeared to him at the different times he was writing. But how great a change has ten years made in the bird itself! The Dorkings imported by him, and their immediate descendants, instead of being about as perfect and desirable a breed of fowls as a man could have in his yard, Mr. Allen *now* describes as a breed of one virtue only, and coupled with so many serious faults, that, if true, no person breeding for profit or pleasure, would desire them.

So far from being tender, I have, the past winter, with the mercury standing at one time at 36° below zero, watched three or four yards containing pure Dorking fowls, with no protection but a half open shed, that have been as well, and began laying as early, as the most hardy breeds. Last winter, I saw a coop of brown Dorking fowls on their way, and addressed to Mr. V. Cornish of Hartford, Conn., and I thought they looked rather better than anything I ever saw at the State Fairs, or at the shows of poultry in Boston. Perhaps Mr. Cornish might be willing to give your readers the history of his Dorkings, and some of his ideas as to their qualities.—[Communications are solicited for the Northern Farmer.—Ed.]

The fact is, Mr. Editor, the pure Dorkings, when attention is paid to their breeding by the introduction of a fresh strain of blood often enough, are all that Mr. Allen described in 1841, and their merits have only to be known to make the public as much their friend as your correspondent.

Cockerel.

It is a fact, that Mr. Allen did, in 1841, write in the American Agriculturist, what he virtually contradicts in 1851.

This *he* must reconcile, but I suppose he wrote in 1841 rather prematurely, expecting that his fowls would come up to his description, in which he was disappointed.

In order to furnish as ample proofs of the character of the Dorking fowls as my limits will allow, I quote from Mowbray, a foreign writer, as follows:

"The Dorkings rank in the third degree in the list of the largest of domesticated fowls. They are well shaped, having a long, capacious body, and shortish legs, and should have five claws on each foot. The absence of a fifth claw is, however, not considered a proof of spurious breeding. They make an excellent stock for the farm or market. They fat well, lay well, and rear well; are handsome alive, and show delicately white when prepared for cooking. General opinion has accorded to this breed the highest character for laying, and also for arriving at early maturity. When full grown, they weigh from five to eight pounds, and possess finer proportions than any other breed. Capons sometimes reach ten to twelve pounds' weight. They are hardy. Their eggs are of a large size, clear, white, and of excellent quality.

The cocks are magnificent; variegated in color, with a surpassing brilliancy of plumage, rarely equalled by other kinds. The hens are pheasant-shaped, with a clear and beautiful head and throat, and a deep, heavy crop. The young are easily reared."

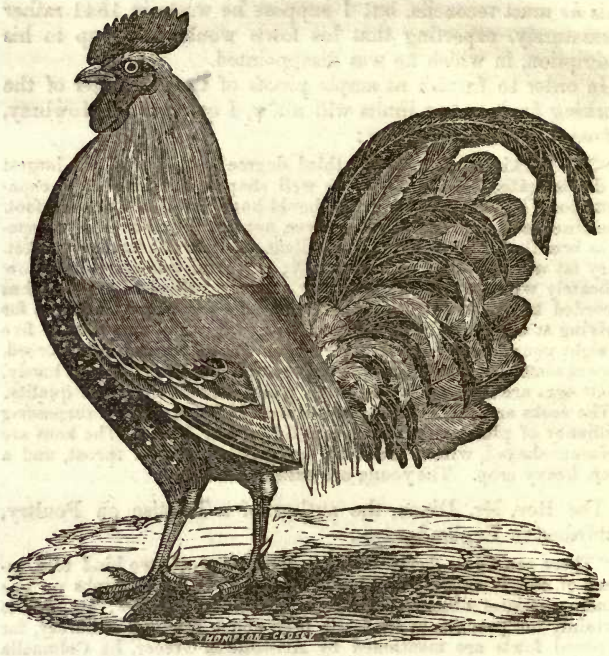
The Rev. Mr. Dixon, the author of a Treatise on Poultry, published in England, says:—

"There can be no doubt that the production of two hind toes, instead of one, is entirely accidental, like that of two thumbs on one hand, sometimes observed to run in particular families; but this is certainly not peculiar to the fowls bred about Dorking in Surrey, for five-toed fowls are mentioned by Aristotle in Greece, by Columella and Pliny in Rome, and by Aldrovand in Italy."

"Their flesh is extremely white, succulent, and delicate, and they have the advantage of feeding rapidly, and growing to a very large size, when properly managed. Capons and pulardes, though by no means so common in England as in France, are sometimes made of these fowls; which, when castrated, grow to an enormous size, a well-fed capon having been known to weigh fifteen pounds."

"For those who wish to stock their poultry-yards with fowls of the most desirable shape and size, clothed in rich and variegated plumage and not expecting perfection, the speckled Dorkings are the breed to be at once selected. The hens in addition to their gay colors have a vertically flat comb which, when they are in high health, adds much to their brilliant appearance, particularly if seen in bright sunshine. The cocks are magnificent. The most gorgeous hues are frequently lavished upon them, which their great size and peculiarly square-built form, display to the greatest advantage. The breeder and the farmer's wife behold with delight their short legs, their broad breast, the small proportion of offal, and large quantity of good, profitable flesh.

The colored Dorkings are worth from $3 to $5 a pair, and the eggs sell at $1 50 to $2 per dozen.



THE SURREY FOWL.

The Surrey fowl is an improved variety of the Dorking, but lacking the fifth toe. They are bred extensively in England, but not to much extent in this country.

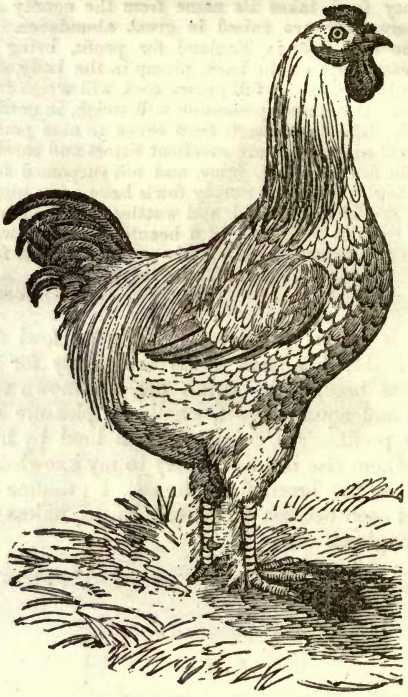
The above cut is from Nolan's work on Domestic Poultry, published in Dublin, but it was furnished for this Treatise by Jno. Giles, Esq., Providence, R. I., as a representation of his Surrey fowls. In that work this cut represents the speckled Dorking with the fifth toe, but in applying it to the Surrey fowl, as bred by Mr. Giles, the fifth toe is missing. This explanation is given to disarm critics, who may cavil at the fact, that Mr. Giles has selected Mr. Nolan's cut to represent his Surrey fowls. I presume that it is as true a representation of Mr. Giles' Surrey cock as if he were to have a portrait drawn from life, because no portrait, except it be from a daguerreotype, is perfect in all respects. The following is Mr. Giles' description:

"The Surrey fowl takes its name from the county in England (Surrey), where they are raised in great abundance. They are considered the best fowl in England for profit, being broad and full in the breast, wide on the back, plump in the body, short in the legs, and of a large size. A full grown cock will weigh from nine to twelve pounds. One in my possession will weigh, in good condition, twelve pounds. The hens weigh from seven to nine pounds. They lay eggs in great abundance, are excellent sitters and careful mothers. The flesh of the fowl is white, juicy, and not surpassed for the table by any other fowl. The pure Surrey fowls have *white* legs, the plumage is grey or speckled, the comb and wattles almost as large as those of the black Spanish fowl, and of a beautiful scarlet, with a *small white patch* on the cheek. I confidently recommend this fowl.

"Yours respectfully,

JOHN GILES."

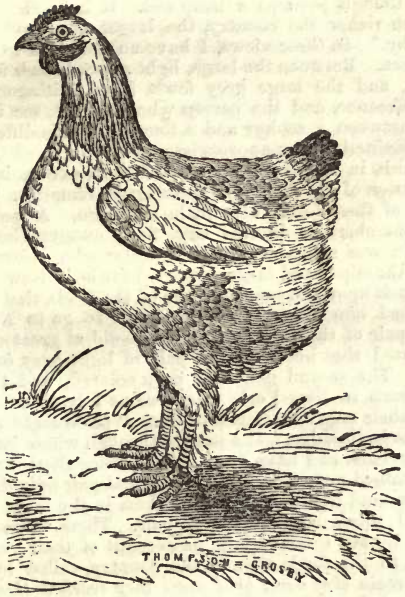
Mr. Giles is one of the most experienced fowl fanciers in this country. He has kept fowls extensively for thirty-five years, and has bred, as he writes me, all known varieties of gallinaceous and aquatic fowls, wholly for pleasure and diversion, not for profit. The Surrey fowl as bred by him can be obtained nowhere else in this country to my knowledge, and as Mr. Giles does not breed fowls to sell, I presume the above fowl will not soon become extensively raised, unless we import them from England.



THE BRAHMA POOTRA COCK.

I now introduce the large Asiatic breeds, and commence with Brahma Pootras, because this breed is acknowledged to be at the head of the list, in regard to *size*, weighing at maturity from twenty-two to twenty-six pounds a pair.

The origin and description of these fowls by Dr. J. C. Bennett of Fort des Moines, Iowa, author of the "Poultry Book," was furnished for the Northern Farmer and this work, and was inserted in the Farmer, as follows:



THE BRAHMA POOTRA HEN.

These fowls, as all others should, take their name from the country of their nativity. Geographers differ as to the orthography of the name, some spelling it Burrampooter; others, Brahmaputra; and others, Brahma Pootra. This last is the spelling adopted by the Hon. George Thompson, (member of the British Parliament,) a noted traveler and historian, and is the correct one as sustained by both Webster and Worcester, and the one we shall adopt. In relation to the name of these fowls, Virgil Cornish, Esq., of Connecticut, in a letter to the author, March 2d, 1852, observes: "No doubt you are acquainted with the relative position of the State in India, called Chittagong, and the river called Brahmaputra. Chittagong is a small State upon the eastern borders, and bounding west upon the bay of Bengal. The river Bramahputra discharges its waters into that bay, forty or fifty miles from the western boundary of Chittagong. If the large, light-colored fowls came from that region—the Bramahputra—of which I think there is no doubt, for we have seen nothing which in the least resembles them from any other country, still I am unable to say by which name they should be called, with certainty. Chittagong, if I understand it, is mountainous, little inhabited; while the country

through which the Brahmaputra river runs is a flat country, exceedingly rich, though perhaps a damp soil. It is much checkered with rivers. The richer the country, the larger the productions, is our rule to go by." In these views, I have no doubt, Mr. Cornish is perfectly correct. Between the large, light-colored fowls from the Brahma Pootra, and the large grey fowls from Chittagong, there is a marked difference, and the person who can not see it, can see no difference between a zephyr and a tornado. This difference we will point out distinctly in its appropriate place.

Mr. Cornish, in the same letter alluded to above, in speaking of the importation of the Brahma Pootra fowls, remarks: "In regard to the history of these fowls, very little is known. A mechanic, by the name of Chamberlain, in this city, first brought them here. Mr. Chamberlain was acquainted with a sailor who informed him that there were three pairs of large imported fowls in New York, and he dwelt so much upon the enormous size of the fowls, that Mr. Chamberlain furnished him money, with directions to go to New York and purchase a pair of them for him, which he did at great expense. The sailor reported that he found one pair of light grey ones, which he purchased. The second pair was dark-colored, and the third pair red. The man in New York, whose name I have not got, gave no account of their origin, except that they were brought there by some sailors in the India ships. The parties through whose hands the fowls came, as far back as I have been able to trace them, are all obscure men. I obtained my stock from the original pair brought here by Mr. Chamberlain, and have never crossed them in the least. Mr. Hatch's first stock, I think, were from that pair. These fowls were named Chittagong, by Mr. Chamberlain, on account of their resemblance, *in some degree*, to the fowls then in the country, called by that name; but *it is certain they never bred until they reached this town.*" The description of these fowls exactly corresponds with that given by travelers and sea captains, with whom I have conversed, of the large, light-colored fowls found in the valley of the Brahma Pootra, and materially differing from the large, grey fowls found in the state of Chittagong.

The Rev. R. W. Fuller, of Massachusetts, in a letter to W. N. Andrews, Esq., of New Hampshire, of Feb. 9th, 1852, says: "I have a pair of Brahma Pootra fowls, of the same breed as those sold by Dr. J. C. Bennett, for $24 a pair, and I consider them decidedly the most beautiful and splendid fowl ever imported into this country. Their color is white, inclining on the back to a rich cream-color, the hackles on the neck slightly streaked with black. The legs are yellow, heavily feathered with white, and shorter than the Chittagong or the Shanghae, giving the fowls a more beautiful proportion. They are very gentle and peaceable in their disposition, and have a stately and graceful gait. Take them altogether they are just the fowls for an amateur to fall in love with, and such as an owner, possessed of one spark of vanity, would desire to keep in his front yard, that all passers-by might behold and admire them."

Dr. Eben Wight, of Boston, in a letter to the author, of March 15th, 1852, in speaking of the Brahma Pootra fowls, remarks: "A man in

Connecticut, says he has a pair, same stock as Hatch's, which he has weighed:—cock, thirteen pounds; hen, nine pounds six ounces; but he refuses to sell them. That is a fine breed of fowls and must beat all others." Dr. Wight is one of the best amateur breeders and most extensive importers in this country, and I regard his opinion as paramount.

Mr. Samuel O. Hatch, of Connecticut, in a letter to the author, of Feb. 13th, 1852, writes: "People here are better acquainted with these Brahma Pootra fowls, than your eastern fowl breeders. I can't sell the Forbes or Marsh stock of Shanghaes for over $3 a pair, best samples; whereas the Brahma Pootras sell readily for from $10 to $40 a pair, according to their age, and I have sold one pair at $50. The usual price is from $12 to $35 a pair. As layers they are unsurpassed by any breed."

The committee of judges on the different classes of fowls exhibited at the late Annual Exhibition of the "New England Society for the Improvement of Domestic Poultry," held in the hall over the Fitchburg Railroad Depot, on the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th days of November, 1851, in speaking of the Brahma Pootra fowls, say: "Some mammoth items of this variety were shown by Dr. Bennett, S. O. Hatch, and J. Parkinson, each possessing great merit. Mr. Hatch's lot was entered under the head of grey Chittagongs, but were really pure Brahma Pootras, and decidedly better fowls than any Chittagongs in America. They are better layers, lighter in color, have shorter legs, more compact forms, larger ear-lobes, and smaller combs and wattles; and, in every respect, are vastly superior to the Chittagongs. As the judges desire that every variety of fowl should be called by its right name, they cannot sanction the application of the title Chittagong, to this excellent stock, when, in reality, they are perfect Brahma Pootras. B. F. Beal, R. W. Fuller, and J. H. Penniman, showed some very handsome fowls of the same variety. Dr. Bennett purchased Mr. Hatch's lot at a very high price."

I purchased very extensively of Messrs. Cornish and Hatch, and find the stock identical. Most magnificent samples have been forwarded to me by both of those gentlemen.

In relation to the last nine pair of Brahma Pootra fowls, purchased by Col. Mark Noble, of New Hampshire, and myself, of Mr. Cornish, the last named gentlemen, in a letter of February 25th, 1852, says: "I have now nine pairs of Brahma Pootra fowls. The weight I give in a schedule below. Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 5, were hatched the first of July last, and Nos. 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9, on the first of September—that is the cocks; the pullets, some of them, a little older—late July chickens. They are all good fowls. Nos. 1, 2, and 3, I think are equal to my old pair, which were so much admired. Their weight is equal to that of the old pair at the same age. I shall be disappointed if the cocks do not come up fully to thirteen pounds each, when fully grown, and the pullets in proportion. I have no doubt they will go above that figure. They are now decidedly the three best pairs of fowls that can be produced in this section of the country. The others are equally good of their age.

No.	1	cock,	10	pounds,			pullet,	7	pounds,	8	ounces.
"	2	"	10	"			"	6	"	4	"
"	3	"	10	"	4	ounces.	"	7	"	10	"
"	4	"	8	"	3	"	"	4	"	9	"
"	5	"	9	"	5	"	"	7	"	6	"
"	6	"	8	"	6	"	"	6	"	8	"
"	7	"	7	"	12	"	"	6	"		
"	8	"	6	"	4	"	"	5	"	4	"
"	9	"	6	"	5	"	"	6	"	5	"

The above weights are accurate, but I would remark that the fowls are all rather lean in flesh. They are all labeled, and if they do not lose their cards from their necks, you can readily select them. You have long been well acquainted with fowls and know how difficult it is to describe their precise color," &c.

Though these are "truly magnificent" fowls, as Mr. Cornish says, still, I have made purchases of Mr. Hatch, of this breed, fully equal both in weight and beauty, if not even superior. *My breeders*, of Brahma Pootra stock, could not be purchased at a $100 per pair, they are, certainly, the most magnificent fowls I ever saw of any breed.

The Brahma Pootra fowls may be thus described: The cock is mostly white, with neck hackles penciled with black, and rump hackles of a gold or yellow color. The tail is black, with glossy, green plume feathers. The wings and a portion of the neck hackles slightly penciled with black.

The pullets are white, with black tails, the wings and neck slightly penciled with black. The comb is small and serrated, though frequently they have the perfect pea-comb of the Sumatra Pheasant Game fowl, which is always a rare indication of fineness of flesh. The wattles are small, but the ear-lobes are extremely large and pendulous.

The legs are yellow, and usually very heavily feathered, though I have seen some excellent specimens with smooth legs.

Their weight at maturity is from twenty-two to twenty-five pounds per pair, and they are quite symmetrical in their conformation.

As layers they are unsurpassed by any breed. I have tried them side by side with the Imperial Chinese, (Marsh stock,) and the Shanghaes, (Forbes' stock,) and find the three breeds about equally prolific. Dr. Elihu Halladay, of Ohio, in a letter to the writer, of March 12th, 1852, says: "The Brahma Pootras, Imperial Chinese, and Shanghaes, have layed most of the time this winter. They have only stopped occasionally for a few days, and some of them hardly stopped for the coldest weather. I can hardly tell which of these breeds are the best layers."

The Brahma Pootras, lay larger eggs than any other Asiatic fowls, not excepting the great Hoang Ho fowls, recently imported from Keangsoo, Shantung and Hoan, in the valley of the Hoang Ho river. On an average their eggs are about fifty per cent. larger than those of the Shanghaes, or Imperial Chinese—Forbes and Marsh stocks.

The Brahma Pootra fowls differ from the grey Chittagongs in the following respects: They are lighter color; shorter legged; more compact in form; have larger ear-lobes, and smaller combs and wat-

tles; deeper breasted, but shorter quartered; are more active; better layers; and are more uniform in color and size. No one, but a stupid, who has ever seen the Chittagong and Brahma Pootra fowls, side by side, would ever suspect their being the same breed, or would so pronounce them, unless influenced by mercenary, corrupt, and unworthy considerations so to do. The Chittagong fowl is frequently crested, the Brahma Pootra never.

It is true that a cross-breed of fowls derived from the great Ostrich and grey Chittagong fowls, and to which I gave the name of Brahma Pootra from their resemblance to that breed, are crested, occasionally, and frequently of a buff color; but no one ever pretended that these were not a cross, or that they were the *pure* Brahma Pootras, though a very excellent variety of fowls. Of this cross-breed, the committee of the Poultry and Bird Exhibition, at the Fitchburg Depot, on the 2d, 3rd, and 4th of October, 1850, in their "Report," say, page 2, "The *Burrampooters* shown by Dr. Bennett, were among the largest and most showy domestic birds exhibited. They resemble the *Chittagongs* strongly; are grey in plumage, and come from stock imported directly from the valley of the Burrampooter, (or *Brahmapootra,*) India. It is stated that this species attain to the enormous weight of twenty-three to twenty-five pounds per pair, at maturity. They clearly originate in a cross of the *Chittagong,* and '*Ostrich*' fowl of the East. The crower and two pullets, sent in by Dr. Bennett, were magnificent samples."

The Boston Traveler in speaking of these fowls, observes:

"These promise to be decidedly the largest birds in America. Beautiful in their appearance, and the prevailing color of their plumage is white or light fawn. They excel the Chittagongs or the imported Chinese in quality, averaging at maturity not less than *twenty-five pounds* a pair; good layers, and the flesh is of a most superior quality."

The pure Brahma Pootras are not the cross-breed here alluded to, but a *perfect breed*—as perfect as the black Spanish, the Guelderland, or the white Dorking. Of the pure Brahma Pootra fowls, in addition to the persons above named, B. Bignon, Esq., and Charles Collins, Esq., of Georgia; Rev. N. S. Smith, of New York; Dr. A. H. Gross, of Pennsylvania; Samuel Wood, Esq., of Maine; and R. R. Winslow, of Ohio, have excellent samples.

The eggs of the Brahma Pootra sell readily at $6 per dozen; and some have sold at $1 *each*, or $12 per dozen.

JOHN C. BENNETT.

Fort Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa.

Dr. Bennett is one of the most extensive fowl fanciers in the United States. He was the *originator* of the "New England Poultry Society,"—was Professor of Midwifery, &c., in the University of Lake Erie, and subsequently "Major General of Division, and Quarter Master General of the State of Illinois," and still later Professor of Surgery, &c., in the Third street Medical College of Cincinnati. His opinion is entitled to respect.

I received in the spring of 1852 a pair of Brahma Pootras from Dr. Bennett, and I have had abundant evidence of their character to warrant me in saying that this breed of fowls is magnificent, large, hardy, handsome and prolific, and destined to be of great popularity. They possess all the valuable traits of the best *Shanghaes*, short-legged, compact, great layers, &c., besides being *larger* and far more attractive to the eye. They lay daily, while they do lay, as a general rule, and stop but a few days between broods, when not allowed to sit. Their eggs are very large, larger than those of any other fowl in this country. They are the most quiet, docile fowl known, never pecking at young chickens, and will seldom leave the yard where bred, when an opportunity is given them, unless forced to do so. I have a peculiar instance of this fact. Having reared several broods in a yard of good limits, I desired to have them run out into an adjoining field, after the grass had been cut, to feed on the bugs and grasshoppers, and having opened a passage thereto, I presumed they would soon enter the field; but I was disappointed; not one passed out. I then called them out into the field and fed them there several times, but as soon as they had gathered their corn they returned to their own yard, and would not leave it, unless called out. Another feature is, they can be confined by a fence *three* feet high, and our gardens will never suffer from their depredations, even if the gates were left wide open. All the Asiatic tribes are easily confined, but this breed is the least inclined to ramble of them all, as far as my knowledge extends. I now (October, 1852), have a dozen fine pullets of this breed, that can not be purchased. My object is to breed from them next season—not to speculate, but to furnish the public who may desire eggs, or fowls of this breed, at as low rates as they can be procured elsewhere, and be enabled to ensure to purchasers the *pure* breed, a matter of the utmost importance, and yet so little regarded by many breeders, who care for nothing but to get the money into their pockets.

Since this breed of fowls has become popular, and much sought for, the title to their *name* has been disputed by George P. Burnham, Esq., of Boston, dealer in *Cochin Chinas* and *Shanghaes*. The following extracts will show the ground upon which Mr. Burnham stands, and also the position of Dr. Bennett, the gentleman who gave them the appellation of *Brahma Pootras*:

From the New England Cultivator for June, 1852:

"Dr. Bennett, of Great Falls, N. H., publishes a long article, lately, in the Northern Farmer, on the origin of the 'Brahma Pootra' fowls.

"Now these fowls are *grey Shanghaes;* that is to say, they originated in the city of Shanghae, China, and are grey in plumage. They have single comb—form like all good Chinese birds of a large size, and are feathered or smooth-legged, as the case may be. The Chittagongs and these are perfectly identical; and *all* are of the great Chinese variety—the *gallus giganteus* of ornithologists.

"Call these particular birds by whatever cognomen you please—'a rose by any other name will smell as sweet'—and still they are beautiful specimens of poultry. But why not designate them correctly, and call them what they really *are*—'grey Shanghaes?'

"We suggest this, in all candor to Dr. B., and all others who are making these mistakes. As for our friend Dr. Bennett, personally, we respect him, highly—and are free to admit that no man has done more for the benefit of the New England Society than himself. But the best of us are liable to commit errors; and we think the matter alluded to is a very decided mistake.

"The original pair took the premiums at two successive fairs in Boston, and were called the '*Chittagongs*' at that time. That cock and hen now weigh about twenty-one pounds the pair.

"This stock has been largely bred the past year, however, and there is a good demand for the better specimens, at $15 to $25 a pair—say at a year old."

From the Northern Farmer for September, 1852:

George P. Burnham, Esq., of Boston, has recently asserted in the New England Cultivator, that Brahma Pootra fowls are *grey Shanghaes.* He also says that "the Chittagongs and grey Shanghaes are *perfectly identical,*" thus, at a single dash of the pen, annihilating the Chittagong variety of fowls and merging them in the grey Shanghaes! This will be news to the poultry breeders of the United States, that there are no such fowls as *Chittagongs!* Verily, Mr. Burnham should have informed the world of this fact before, and not have suffered them to appear in all our recent works on poultry, and in half the papers in the country for years as *Chittagongs.*

Dr. Bennett, of Great Falls, N. H., is the gentleman assailed, as having mis-named these fowls, and the writer of their history in our May number. The Doctor desires us to insert the following proofs of the origin and correctness of the name of these fowls on his responsibility:

Mr. Miner:—In the New England Cultivator, for June, is an article on "Grey Shanghae Fowls," from the pen of George P. Burnham, Esq., confounding that breed with the Brahma Pootras, and as he has used my name most liberally, I beg leave to make a short reply. Mr.

Burnham says: "Mr. Burnham was the first to introduce this large breed of grey fowls into Massachusetts in 1849 and 1850. [Mr. B. is *incog.* editor, and writes of himself as of another person.—Ed. Northern Farmer.] They were called *Chittagongs* at that time." Now, the Chittagongs to which Mr. Burnham refers, are *grey* Chittagongs; I had some of the same stock. They were purchased of Dr. Kerr by Mr. Burnham and myself at the same time. Mr. Burnham admits that these fowls are Chittagongs, and so do I. They were, and now are, of a *grey owl-color*, not *white*, with *black tails* and *penciled neck-hackles*, like the Brahma Pootras. [The Brahma Pootras are just as here described.—Ed.] Mr. Burnham's pair of Chittagongs, which he pretends are similar to Brahma Pootras, passed into the hands of Mr. G. W. George, of Haverhill, Mass. On the 28th of June, Mr. George visited Great Falls to see my Brahma Pootras. He was accompanied by Mr. W. P. Neff, of Cincinnati, Ohio. I requested Mr. George to state in the presence of Mr. Neff, whether Mr. Burnham's Chittagongs, which he owned, resembled my Brahma Pootras. He replied, "Not in the least. The Chittagongs that I had of Mr. Burnham are *owl-colored*, or grey, more like a Dominique fowl." Now, Mr. Burnham's "grey Chittagongs" have turned out to be "grey Shanghaes," for he says they are "perfectly identical!" If this is true, there is no such thing as Chittagong fowls!! They are all grey Shanghaes now! That Mr. Burnham has some grey *Shanghaes*, I am not disposed to contradict, but that they are the original *grey Chittagongs*, I deny. But if they were the same, that circumstance would have nothing to do with their being Brahma Pootras, because neither of these breeds resemble the Brahma Pootras in the least. That Mr. Burnham had no fowls in 1849 and 1850, resembling the Brahma Pootras in the least, *I know to a certainty*, and in confirmation of this statement I append a letter from Virgil Cornish, Esq., of Conn.

Yours,

J. C. Bennett.

——— July 19th, 1852.

Dr. J. C. Bennett:—*Dear Sir*—A few weeks ago I received the Northern Farmer, and noticed your article on the Brahma Pootra fowls, with quotations from my letter to you, which are all correct. I have shown the article to Mr. Chamberlain, and he says that the description of the origin of these fowls, as there given by you, is perfectly correct. You have probably noticed the article in the New England Cultivator for June, under the head of "Grey Shanghaes," in which the author claims that the Brahma Pootras are identical with that breed, &c., telling us that Mr. Burnham knows all about them, and had them in 1849 and 1850, &c. Now I happened to meet Mr. Burnham at the Poultry Fair in 1850, when he told me, after viewing a few young specimens of Brahma Pootras shown at that time, that *he had never seen anything like them before*, and Mr. Morse [Mr. Morse is Secretary of the New England Poultry Society.—Ed.] also said the same, and denied that they were grey Chittagongs; and observed that he had never before seen the pure Brahma Pootras. Both gentlemen made great efforts to obtain a promise of some of

the fowls, but failed. Now, I do not wish to say that the assertion in the Cultivator, that Mr. B. had the Brahma Pootras in 1849, is false, but it looks very much as though there was, at least a great mistake somewhere.

Yours respectfully,
VIRGIL CORNISH.

I consider Mr. Cornish's letter quite conclusive as to the origin and true name of these fowls; and were they not sought for in preference to Cochin Chinas and Sanghaes, it is probable that no one would ever take the trouble to dispute the title to their name, as given by Dr. Bennett, one of the original purchasers of this breed of fowls.

The Brahma Pootras that I own—and they are equal to the best in the country—are no more like the grey Shanghaes or Chittagongs, than an *owl* is like a *hawk*. They are nearly white, except a few hackles upon their necks, &c., as Dr. Bennett has described. They generally have a small *pea-comb* resembling that of the Sumatra Pheasant games, but which is *never* found on the grey Shanghaes, nor the grey Chittagongs, but their combs are always *single* and *serrated*. This single fact is conclusive evidence that the Brahma Pootras are not identical with grey Shanghaes, nor Chittagongs. The Cape of Good Hope, Domnique, or the white Shanghae fowls, can with as much propriety be said to be "perfectly identical" with the Brahma Pootras, different as those fowls are, than can be said of grey Shanghaes or Chittagongs.

In a subsequent allusion to these fowls, Mr. Burnham says:

"It matters very little what name they go by, however; they are splendid birds, in all respects, and the specimens exhibited at the late Fair in Boston were extraordinarily fine samples—old and young.

"This breed may be set down as the *largest* domestic fowl we now have in this country, without exception, unquestionably. The plumage of this variety is very beautiful—a light grey, approaching to speckled or streaked white; the form is that of the best modeled Shanghaes, the characteristics are the same; the weight, considerably above the average: and the general appearance very prepossessing.

At the Fair of 1852, these birds commanded very high prices; and all the good samples that were for sale, were taken up at an early moment after the opening of the exhibition, at round figures. Fifty dollars a pair was paid for the premium fowls, of this breed, and the younger stock was sold at proportionate rates. They are really an extraordinary race, and cannot but become popular, wherever they may hereafter become known."

At the poultry show in Boston, held in September, 1851,

under the auspices of the New England Poultry Society, the dispute in regard to the name of these fowls was submitted to the judges for their decision. The committee consisted of Dr. Bennett, and Messrs. Burnham, Andrews, Balch, and Fussel. The following is their decision:

"The Committee are unanimously of the opinion that those marked '*Chittagongs*,' are not of that breed; it is clearly a *misnomer*—and the only question is, whether they are '*grey Shanghaes*' or 'Brahma Pootras'—from China or India; and as the arguments of Mr. Burnham on the one side, and Dr. Bennett on the other, are before the public, we submit the question."

By this decision the question is settled that this breed of fowls is not identical with *Chittagongs*, and to persist in calling them *grey Shanghaes* seems to be a gross *misnomer*, because they are not *grey*, but white, or nearly so, generally. Occasionally we see one with the usual neck hackles extending nearly over the entire body, giving the fowl a beautiful appearance, yet quite distinct in color from all other fowls. Marquis F. Moore, of Massachusetts, in a letter to me, dated September 3, 1852, says:—

"The Brahma Pootra fowl are very dark in many instances. Yours may be almost white, but that is no sign that all are light-colored. I prefer no fowl above this breed, and I now have a pair that fifty dollars will not buy."

I am inclined to infer that Mr. Moore's stock is not *direct* from the original pair from which Dr. Bennett's has sprung, but I may be in error. I have, however, heard of no *dark*-colored Brahma Pootra fowls from any other source. Mr. Moore also says that they do not always have a *pea*-comb. I admit it, but Dr. Bennett's stock generally do.

Without desiring to extol these fowls beyond their merits, I annex the opinions of gentlemen in different parts of the country, to be taken for what they are worth, but I can assure my readers that what they say was not prompted from *interested* motives; because their opinions were given in private letters, and not for the press:

The Brahma pullet I have is drooping, but I hope with care to restore her. I would not lose her for any amount. This breed is *decidedly the handsomest and finest fowls I have ever seen.*

B. Bignon,
Georgia.

Your article on the Brahma Pootra fowls, published in the North ern Farmer, for May, corresponds generally with my own experience

in regard to them. I have bred four varieties of the Shanghae fowl, —also the Cochin China and black Polands, but I give the Brahma Pootras the *decided* preference over all others. They grow to a much larger size than other India fowls, and are better proportioned, and they are not excelled in their laying qualities.

W. N. ANDREWS,
New Hampshire.

I find them hardy and hearty, requiring but little attention to raise them. They are as easily yarded as cows, not disposed to ramble abroad, great grass eaters, and not at all dainty.

SAMUEL WOOD,
Maine.

I have been offered for my old pair of Brahma Pootras $50, but I refused to sell them. They cannot be beat. Every one that sees them wants to buy them, but I don't want to sell them.

GEORGE SMITH,
Rhode Island.

My Brahma Pootra hen has beat everything about here in laying. She commenced in January, when seven months old, and with the exception of one period of ten days, she has laid constantly to this time (July.)

L. KENNEDY,
Wisconsin.

My Brahma Pootras are *splendid*, and cast Burnham's into the shade. The fact is, they do not resemble his at all. They are quite different birds, and greatly superior, more elegant and loftier. He is grossly in error when he calls them *grey Shanghaes.*

A. VERLOIN DE GRUY,
Lousiana.

I give no residence to the writers of the foregoing extracts, to show to the public that I am not *advertising* their fowls, as is often done in an underhanded manner, for which a *consideration* is tendered. If it be possible to furnish an *honest* work, without favoring friends, or fearing foes, I desire to do it.

Mr. De Gruy, it appears, was a purchaser of stock from Mr. Burnham, which that gentleman calls "Brahma Pootras," *alias* grey Shanghaes, but the pair he extols so highly were purchased in 1852, of Dr. Bennett for $50, and I now have a letter in my possession from Mr. De G. to Dr. B., stating that a friend had offered him $150 for this same pair of fowls, and he refused to sell them!

The stock that I purchased of Dr. Bennett were hatched in the same nest with this pair sold to Mr. De G.; so Dr. Bennett writes me. I am well aware that such prices will appear to some

of my readers as fabulous, yet I assure them it is strictly so. I have, myself, sold seven pairs and one cock of this breed, lately, for $110; but they were chickens, from two to four months old only.

At the present time (November, 1852), this breed is nearly, if not quite out of the market, all having been bought up throughout New England at very high figures.

In regard to *hardiness*, I can truly say that nothing in the way of poultry can excel them. The chicks are the most easily raised of any I ever saw. Few, or none die of disease, as far as my own experience goes, and what I learn from others who have bred them. They are covered with a soft down that protects them, similar to that on young ducks, and the morning dew or wet grass has little or no effect upon them. If you have a brood hatch you can count upon raising every chick, unless killed by accident, vermin, or some other enemy. The feathers of these fowls equal those of geese.

During the summer season they feed on grass to such an extent that they consume no more food than our smallest common breeds. This occurs when they have a good range to grass.

This breed of fowls was wholly unknown in England, till Dr. Bennett sent a pair to Mrs. Hosier Williams, Eaton, Mascott, near Shrewsbury. Mrs. Williams is a lady of distinction in England, and one of the most ardent fowl fanciers in that country. She writes, that she constanly took prizes for *all* the fowls she has exhibited at the great Poultry Fair in Birmingham. She read Dr. Bennett's work on Domestic Poultry, and noticing that we possess some breeds not known there (the Brahmas are not described in that work), she wrote to the Doctor to do her the favor to procure them for her. He then sent her a description of the Brahma Pootra fowls, in the Northern Farmer, as she requested him to advise her, if any new breeds had been introduced not mentioned in his work. On the receipt of the paper she wrote back to procure a pair of this breed at any cost. Here is an extract from her letter on receiving the fowls.:

"*Sir*—Last night only, I received safely the pair of Brahma Pootra fowls, per steamer America. I must say, they more than realized my expectations, and are *truly splendid.* I never saw young fowls of so gigantic a size and weight, and they have many decided peculiarities which distinguish them from every other breed I have hitherto seen. I am, indeed, not a little proud to be the only possessor in Europe of such a pair of fowls, and I can not sufficiently thank you for so perfectly complying with my wishes by sending them."

Mrs. Williams then offers to procure for Dr. Bennett any breed of fowls in England that he may desire—the best that England can produce; and adds a glowing eulogy on Lord Hill's Aylesbury ducks. Dr. Bennett has requested her to procure him *two* pairs of these celebrated ducks; one pair for himself, and the other for me, from which I shall, I hope, be able to introduce, in connection with Dr. Bennett, some of the best ducks in the world.

The fowls sent to Mrs. Williams, have created much excitement in England with those who have seen or heard of them. The following extract is from a letter by Wm. Cust Gwynne, M. D., of Sandbach, Cheshire, England, to Dr. Bennett:

"*Dear Sir,*—I have been so charmed with the accounts sent me by Mrs. Hozier Williams, of Eaton, Mascott, near Shrewsbury, of her pair of *Brahma Pootra* fowls, and with your description in the Northern Farmer, which Mrs. Williams received from you, and forwarded to me, that I am resolved, if possible, to possess myself of the birds."

Dr. Gwynne then goes on to say, that he has remitted a Bank of England note, equal to $24, for a pair of chickens of this kind, but if that is not enough he will send more; but he must have a pair, let them cost what they may, &c.

I allude to those matters to show that this breed of fowls was unknown in England previous to Mrs. Williams receiving her samples, and also to show that other people besides Americans are willing to pay high prices for them. If these fowls are not what they are represented to be, then we must admit that we can place no confidence whatever in the written statements and opinions as expressed in public prints.

The portraits of those fowls here shown, were got up in a plain way—not to *sell* the fowls, as many are, and they are inferior in appearance to the fowls themselves, yet quite true to their general form and proportions.

A. A. HUDSON'S SHANGHAES.

SHANGHAE FOWLS.

This breed of fowls is more generally bred, at this time, in the United States, than any other of the large breeds, for the reason, that they have been sold at comparatively low prices, and are truly a valuable fowl.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, of Syracuse, a gentleman who has had experience in raising poultry, furnishes the annexed cut, and writes as follows:

"Enclosed I send you an engraving of my Shanghae fowls, which received the first premium at the New York State Agricultural Fair, held in Rochester, in September last. The engraving is taken from life by an experienced artist of our city, (Mr. Chase.) It is considered by those who have seen the fowls, to be a perfect resemblance, and the proportions to be developed in the most perfect manner.

"The weight of my fowls, when exhibited at Rochester, was as follows: cock, 10 lbs., 10 oz.; hens, 7 lbs. 1 oz., and 7¼ lbs.; only fifteen months old.

"If farmers only knew the worth of these fowls, no effort would be spared to obtain them, as they will produce more eggs in *four* months, than any common fowl will in *twelve* months. I have had a ready sale for all my fowls raised the past season, at prices ranging from $3 to $10 a pair, according to age. From my experience in raising fowls, I am fully of the opinion, that pure blood Shanghae fowls will eventually drive all other breeds out of market. There can be no doubt of this, as they are certainly the best fowls in America for laying, and they are a very superior fowl for the table. I am satisfied, that if farmers would abandon all their common fowls, and procure Shanghae fowls, they would realize, at least, 100 per cent. better profits than they now do. There is no mistake about this, as every person within my knowledge, who has tried the experiment, will testify. You may, perhaps, think me prejudiced. I believe I am not. I have tried most kinds of fowls, and experience has shown me what I have now stated. I have bred the Dorkings from as good stock as I can procure in the State, and I am willing to say, that their flesh is as good as that of the Shanghaes, but no better; and for laying, they will excel the Dorkings by 30 per cent.

"The raising of fowls may be so increased, as to produce an annual income of from $500 to $1000 a year, on any ordinary sized farm. Every farmer might produce his own *guano*, and save the expense of sending abroad for it."

Mr. Hudson is not acquainted with the character of the Brahma Pootra fowls nor with the merits of several other breeds, I presume, as valuable as the Shanghaes.

D. Taggart, Esq., attorney at law, and one of the best poultry breeders in Pennsylvania, writes me as follows:

"The Shanghaes, by proper attention, can be made to yield more

eggs than any other breed. The chief obstacle in the way of their fertility, is their proneness to incubate. By care, however, this can be prevented, and if so, a Shanghae hen will scarcely ever miss a day without producing an egg."

The letter, from which the above brief extract was taken for publication in the Northern Farmer, contained much more matter of interest, but having been mislaid, I am compelled to forego its publication here. The following very interesting communication, of a subsequent date, will, however, partially atone for the loss of the original one.

NORTHUMBERLAND, Pa., Nov. 21, 1851.

My Dear Sir,—Since writing you before, I have attended the State Fairs at Rochester and Harrisburg, and have returned home with my former notions of the varieties of the *gallus giganteus* very considerably confused. I have seen almost as many different sorts of Shanghaes as can be found among the common dunghill fowls—*yellow, red, dominique, speckled, white* and *black;* legs of every color—feathered and featherless—ranging through all sizes, from ordinary to gigantic. And this of a breed, which my previous limited researches had taught me, was primitive, distinct and uniform.

At Harrisburg, I exhibited, among other large fowls, a pair of beautiful Shanghaes, five and a half months old, of unexceptionable pedigree, descended from stock I purchased last year of Dr. Kerr. Their grand-parents had pecked scraps of dog-pie from a Chinese platter, and waked the tea-pickers by the banks of the Yang-Tse-Kiang, to their morning toil. The stag, the handsomest color imaginable —fine, brilliant yellow dominique; the pullet, glossy, light yellow—both heavily feathered upon the legs, and very downy in plumage, and according to the books, filling every requisite of pure, thorough-bred Shanghaes, for which they were purchased. Nevertheless, Mr. Newbold, of Philadelphia, himself an importer of fowls from Asia, and who deservedly stands high as a naturalist in this peculiar branch, pronounced them *Cochin Chinas.* As the committee, of which Mr. N. was chairman, awarded them a very flattering premium, I was not disposed to quarrel with the name, but like Galileo on an equally important occasion, I persisted in my old belief.

A cock, about as heavy as an ordinary game fowl, with short, clean legs, by the way, a very handsome bird, was adjudged the *Shanghaest* chicken on the ground. He looked some like a cross between the Game and some undersized Cochin China. Thus doctors differ. I apprehend the science of chickens, when it comes to minute classification, will prove almost as troublesome as entomology.

A number of gentlemen import large fowls from China—one importation differing from another. Each gentleman considers his own the only pure Shanghaes, and the others, of course, mere adulterations. The truth is, I doubt not, in that original home of cocks and hens, they have, as elsewhere, in the course of ages, obtained an almost endless variety—some differing little, derived from a common

starting point—others differing much, from a distinct original. I am not inclined to trace every variety of chickens, from the Great Malay to the Bantam, to a common progenitor. Nor do I yet believe, that every extra speckle, or every superfluous feather, whether on top of the head, under the throat, or upon the legs, denotes a distinct Adam cock, and Eve hen. A middle course seems to be the sensible one. No man can believe, that the Chittagong, the Game, and the Bantam are descended from the same stock, and yet no man can deny, that wonderful changes in external appearance, and even in qualities, can be effected by the careful or fanciful breeder. Some years ago, I came into possession of three common *grey* puddle ducks—a male, and two females. These birds were without a single white feather, and yet, by aiming at white, in the course of four years, I had from these three, a flock of beautiful white ducks, without spot or blemish. I could more easily have had grey, parti-colored, or dark, if I had chosen. Nay, I could have turned the white flock back again, for though that color, when once established, greatly preponderated, the dusky hues would sometimes re-appear. And thus of the purest fowls you or I have ever seen. From yellow or buff Shanghaes, it is hardly to be doubted, that white and other colors could be obtained, in the course of a few generations, if constantly aimed at. As of color, so of other minor characteristics.

After the rearing of young broods, the next most important item, and certainly *the most profitable*, where fancy prices cannot be obtained for chickens, is the production of eggs. In France, it is said, the cooping system answers very well. But unless the citizens of the Grand Republic understand the necessities of egg-bearing hens better than we do, or minister to them with much greater care, I am inclined to doubt the statements. I know very well, that in our country, abundant food and liberty are *both* essential to long continued productiveness. On a limited range, a hen soon exhausts the supplies of grass, worms, gravel, and calcareous matter, that are necessary to her health, enjoyment and fertility. And even if these things are plentifully furnished her, a difficulty still remains. The premises will become tainted and unwholesome, in spite of the most unremitting care. I have had hens to lay tolerably well for a time, when confined, but the attention they required was tenfold, and their prolificness of short duration. Fruits and vegetables, and any form of animal food, are highly promotive of the object to be attained. With the exception of hogs and men, there is nothing so *omniverous* as a chicken And in this respect, the more their appetites are pampered, the better. Corn to-day, oats to-morrow, wheat next day, and "green things" every day, is a good system of rotation.

If I were a butcher, I would engage to supply a small neighborhood with eggs, winter and summer, by keeping hens around my slaughter house, to live on bullocks' blood, scrapings, and other odds and ends. I can imagine no better food for poultry than corn meal saturated with blood. I would advise every knight of the slaughter weapon, to add a hennery to his premises, thereby securing both profit and pleasure.

If any farmer who has been in the habit of wintering one hundred fowls on the shift-for-themselves principle, will reduce his flock to

fifty of the finest *young* ones, and feed these regularly and plentifully, affording them reasonable shelter in severe cold, he will find the yield of eggs greatly increased, and the destruction of grain in the mow and stack, as greatly diminished. When chickens are permitted to help themselves, they are apt to leave in exchange what does not much enhance the value of the grain they fail to cousume—"*verbum sapientibus satis.*"

The killing off of fowls is another matter worthy of consideration. The number of a hen's eggs is generally in an inverse ratio to her years. Unless hens are great favorites, and possess very remarkable personal attractions, they should not be permitted to live beyond two years. Besides their comparative barrenness, their gouty dullness in the poultry yard, is anything but ornamental. "Off with their heads," before they get too old to be eaten.

Yours truly, DAVID TAGGART.

As the descriptions of our most valuable fowls have hitherto been very meagre in works on poultry, I shall give full details from numerous sources.

Mr. Miner,—Sir: I think the Shanghaes are very excellent fowls, especially as layers. In proof of this, I have a "brown Shanghae" pullet from stock of the Gillet importation, which commenced laying in October last, and has layed almost daily, ever since, notwithstanding the severity of the weather for a few weeks past.

H. V. N. DIMMICK.

Madison Co., N. Y., Feb. 5, 1852.

Mr. T. B. Miner—Dear Sir: Of the domesticated large breed of fowls, the Shanghaes are conceded to be the best for general purposes. They are as large, if not larger, than any other pure breed, and have the most noble and commanding appearance of any fowl I have ever seen; they are of a fine form, good plumage, very peaceable and quiet, healthy, easily raised, and much attached to home. Mine do not wander twenty yards from the house, although, did they choose, they might take the range of three or four acres. It has been said to be a dish fit for an Emperor, when well cooked. This I am much inclined to doubt, and cannot believe they are equal in that respect to the Games, or those having a dash of that blood in them. I have not as yet, however, tested their quality as table food. I have a cockerel and pullet of this breed, which were hatched on the eighth of Janury last. The cockerel now weighs seven pounds, three ounces, and the pullet six pounds and three-quarters, being within one ounce of fourteen pounds, for a pair of chickens only nine months old. This ought to satisfy any reasonable person as to size. The pullet has not, as in the case of the Cochin, commenced as yet to lay, and I am better satisfied that it is so, as the commencing so soon to lay, has a tendency to retard the growth, and as I believe this to be a pure breed, their precocity is not so great as a first cross would be, or for instance, the Chittagong is, which has been known to commence laying at five months old.

To the Chittagongs, (so called,) I am not partial, on account of its being a mixed breed. Their progeny are of all descriptions and colors—some smooth, and some with their legs feathered; and again, some having nine and ten toes. They are also deficient in form to the Cochin or Shanghae, being very tall in proportion to thickness of body; but to those who are not nice in such matters, and who think that all fowls are much the same for culinary purposes, they may do very well. They very often attain a large size, and weigh as much, if not more, than any other variety. They are good layers of large and very well-flavored eggs, if well fed. I have a hen of this variety, but not knowing when she was hatched, cannot testify as to her precocity, but can as to her prolific qualities. She is now raising her third brood of chickens this year, and some of the first brood now stand twenty-four inches high, and all promise to be of the largest size.

I would recommend to those who breed this, and other varieties of a large size, to put saddles on the hens' backs, (that is, a piece of thick cloth, but not so closely wove that the cock would slip off. A piece of cotton-bagging would answer very well, either sewed on, or secured with tape), to prevent them from being lacerated by the claws of the cock; or put eight, ten, twelve or enough of hens to satisfy his salacity. If the saddle is used, it will be necessary to examine frequently beneath, to see that there are no vermin. A smearing of the parts with oil or grease, before applying it, would be beneficial.

A. C. PHIN.

Charleston, S. C.

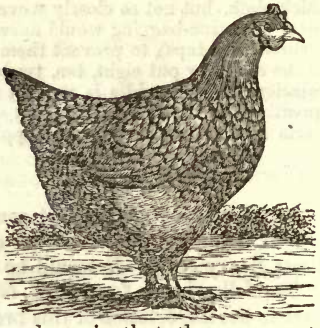
I had an instance the last season, of the skin of the sides of a hen being completely stript down, by the sharp claws of a large, heavy cock. It would be well to use Mr. Phin's remedy.

The following is from A. T. Newbold, Esq., of Philad., a pioneer in the importation of this breed, and the origin of the name:

"In the spring of 1847, I received, *direct* from Shanghae, by Capt. G. W. Lockwood, of the ship Tartar, the *first pair of native fowls* from northern China, imported to this country. I have been a fancier of fowls for thirty years, and I believe that I have had every known variety, at different times. There have been many different fowls brought from Shanghae, but it does not follow, that all are the pure native breeds of northern China. On the contrary, most of the fowls at the port of Shanghae are hybrids, as also are the Cochin Chinas. Previous to having the Shanghae fowls, (a name which I gave them in consequence of their being shipped at that port,) I had a breed, which I called the "*Grey Eagle*," improved by crossing with the large black fowl from Algiers, with the large white fowl of Poland, without top knot, known as the Baltic fowl. Although hybrids, they were the best I had seen, until I received the Shanghaes. In regard to the laying qualities of the Shanghaes, you can judge, when I state, and *vouch* for, that I received them in the early part of June, in very *poor condition*. The hen commenced laying on the 19th of June, and up to Dec. 3d, I had 127 chickens from her eggs! They were hatched under other hens, of course."

The color of the Shanghaes that have been described, is variable, no two importations being exactly alike. Some are yellow, some buff, some brown, some fawn-colored, and some black. Their weight may be correctly set down, as averaging at maturity, from fifteen to twenty pounds per pair.

I have a pair of *buff*-colored Shanghaes, that are very superior. The hen weighs *nine* pounds, fifteen months old; the cock is younger, but will probably draw *twelve* pounds when two years old. The pullet is so short in the legs, and heavy in the body, that she walks with difficulty. She is a perfect fowl in every respect, and now lays daily, (Jan. 10th, 1853.) Here is a very good delineation of her, but this cut was not engraved expressly to represent her:



I have procured these fowls as the *best* specimens in the country, being resolved to spare no expense in obtaining the best of the various breeds that I shall keep, and I believe the State of New York cannot produce a Shanghae pullet that is her equal in all the good points that constitute a perfect fowl. I shall not be able to spare any eggs from this pair before another year. My own candid opinion in regard to Shanghaes, is, that they are next to Brahma Pootras, and as the latter cannot be had at less than $15 to $25 a pair, the Shanghaes are the fowl, at *present*, for the public generally.

In purchasing, pay no regard to the "stock" the fowls are *said* to be from, as you can place little dependance on such evidence of their value, but see that you get a *short-legged*, *compact* fowl, with a short tail, legs feathered heavily as a general rule, a bright eye, single serrated comb, and the weight of pullets at eight months old, not less than *six* pounds, and cocks of the same age, *eight* pounds, at least, with an increase of two to three pounds on each, when mature. The price for *good* specimens, is from $3 to $10 a pair, and even higher for very fine *extra* fowls.

R. C. M'CORMICK, JR.'S SHANGHAES.

Eighteen Months Old—Bred from Imported Stock.

Friend Miner,—In fulfilment of my promise, I now send you sketches of some of my fowls, taken from life, a few days since. The specimens portrayed, are fair representatives of the kind that I have bred for several years past, the Shanghaes, and which I now esteem much higher than any other variety that has yet attracted my attention. In 1851, I obtained from the bark "Gallego," at New York, from Shanghae direct, a number of pairs of Shanghae fowls, equal in size and quality, I believe, to any of the celebrated importations hitherto made. From these fowls I have raised a large number, and their progeny well sustain their characteristics. The drawing of old fowls, now forwarded, was taken from a pair bred from the imported stock, and now eighteen months old. No attempt has been made to put flesh upon them; they have the run of the farm, and pick up most of their living thereabouts, and are now only in ordinary condition. Their weight, a few days since, was *nineteen pounds;* and, highly fed, they would, in all probability, draw a number of pounds more. The cock is of a dark-red color; his legs, very large, of a

handsome flesh-color, and heavily feathered; he stands up loftily, measuring about thirty inches; and combines, with great size and weight, much symmetry and beauty in his form; and this I think quite desirable, for in this world, even *roosters*, are valued by many for their graceful appearance; and I myself like to see them exhibit a good proportion and graceful figure. I have seen many heavy fowls that I would not give *crowing room*—their clumsy, uncouth forms "*without shape or comeliness*"; and their awkward movements certainly invite ridicule, and give good cause for dislike. The hen shown in this cut, is from the same imported stock. She is of a deep copper-color, and stands well up, though the artist has given her rather long legs; her limbs are exceedingly large, yet her formation is very compact. In every respect she is a valuable hen—a good egg-producer, an attentive mother, and withal, a remarkably well-behaved, quiet, honest fowl. Her head is serpent-like, and her eye sharp; and throughout, she presents, what I consider, the true marks of the real Shanghae.

SHANGHAE CHICKS

Eight Months Old.

The sketch of *chicks* is intended to represent a pair, bred from my *old fowls.* They are now eight months old, and weigh *seventeen pounds.* They resemble very much the original stock. The crower is of a deep-red hue, very tall and heavily built, and is a promising bird. The pullet, his mate, is of a buff-color, and now weighs eight pounds. (No means have been used to fatten these chicks.) *She* is, of all my Shanghaes, the favorite. I think her body is somewhat longer than drawn in the sketch, but you may form a very good idea of her shape therefrom. She has a perfect serpent-head, and very heavy, flesh-colored legs, thickly feathered, down to the toes; her wings are small, and her frame extremely broad. I do not remember to have met, even in the yards of the celebrated fanciers of Boston and vicinity, (that notorious chicken district,) a chick or old fowl that seemed to me to comply more fully with all of the distinguishing peculiarities claimed for the *pure Shanghae.* At the fair of our County Agricultural Society, held at Flushing, in October last, no fowl was admired more than this pullet. Many amateurs and breeders pronounced her superior to anything of the kind that they had ever seen. I have had numerous proposals, but incline to keep her, and hope to have "more of the same sort." I do not suppose that she surpasses everything in the country, but would only intimate that I have never had her equal, of similar age, etc. Perhaps my excessive admiration has led me to eulogise too highly "my pet." Could you see her though, I think that you would fully agree with me in praising her.

So much towards describing the "pictures." You want my opinion of Shanghaes generally. At any rate, I will speak of no other species now. They are my first choice, and, of course, get my first notice. I have chosen, as specimens of my stock, the birds sketched, believing that they display the genuine traits of the breed. There are many cocks strutting about my yard, whose voices have oft welcomed the dawn of the oriental sun, and many hens too, natives of the Celestial Empire now cackle daily round my barn. But I consider their American offspring, better birds. And why should they not be? The anxiety endured by their parents, in being torn away from their homes and friends in the days of their youth, (as they had generally been,) with the hardships and fatigue of six months in a small coop, on the "rolling ocean," is sufficient to render them imperfect in their developments; for while sea voyages may greatly benefit the members of the human family, I doubt exceedingly their material improvement to the feathered race. Chickens are by nature land lubbers, and the sea is anything but agreeable to their health and condition.

I have been familiar with, and have owned poultry of almost every known variety, and from personal experience, now feel ready, as I have before intimated, to give the Shanghaes the palm, considering them truly the *ne plus ultra* of chickendom. No fowl is better adapted to the farmers' wants, none can be more easily reared, and none are less disposed to injure or destroy his property, nor is any more productive or hardy. I think that they excel even the Black Polands in laying. Last winter, during the unusually severe weather, when all others had ceased laying, my Shanghae hens were daily obliging me with their rich eggs, (all of a deep cinnamon-color.) I have no stories to tell of

two eggs per day, but you may, with almost a certainty, rely upon receiving one good egg every day from a Shanghae hen, and occasionally I get one with two yolks, as large as a turkey's, measuring a foot or less around! For breeding, these fowls are excellent. It is all untrue and libelous in the extreme, to brand them "poor setters" and inefficient mothers; they hatch their eggs well, and rear their young with great care and success. It is not unfrequently the case, that every member of a large brood reaches maturity.

In all respects then, the Shanghae is a most desirable species, the introduction of which into our country, has formed a new era in the history of poultry and poultry breeding, and will, I think, prove of great benefit to the land. Poultry breeding has become so extensive a business, that it is to the interest of the citizens of the United States, that all improvements in the varieties, etc., should be encouraged, and the scattering through the States, of this capital and profitable breed, will, in my estimation, do much toward raising the quality and increasing the value of our domestic poultry.

I have not entered into detailed descriptions, as I should like to have done, and find that already my letter is quite too long. But I suppose that there are but few in our country now, who are not more or less familiar with the Shanghae. I have sent of my stock to the Northern and Southern States, and to the West Indies, and have heard the most favorable reports. I have not, nor do I intend, to breed for the market, or for profit, but from an innate love for "chickens," (alive,) and a special interest in this species, have devoted much of my time and attention to its study and keeping. I shall be pleased to furnish you, or the readers of your book, with any further information relative to my Shanghaes, that you may at any time desire, which my continued study of their "*manners and customs*," may afford.

I may, perhaps, mention, that to avoid breeding in and in, (a practice to which I am strongly opposed,) and in order to breed directly from imported stock, I replenished my yards last spring by an importation per ship "Oneida," at New York, and within a few days, I have received an additional invoice per ship "Oriental," at New York, from Shanghae direct, in a short passage.

The accompanying "sketches," were prepared by Nathaniel Orr, Esq., the distinguished engraver of New York, and although pronounced exceedingly accurate and artistic, they still carry to the uninitiated, a very imperfect idea of the size and beauty of these fowls.

With continued respect,
Yours truly,
RICHARD C. McCORMICK, JR.

Woodville, near Jamaica, Long Island, N. Y.,
December 22d, 1852.

IMPERIAL CHINESE FOWLS.

This variety of fowls are said to have been produced originally from a cross between Marsh's or Forbes' Shanghaes and the "Cochin Chinas." The committee of the South Carolina Poultry Society, in their report, say:

"IMPERIAL CHINESE."—This name has been given to a large variety of fowl produced by crossing the Forbes' Shanghae on the Cochin China fowl. They are very large, and the best *cross* breed, we are acquainted with."

These fowls have been represented as being *the* Marsh Shangaes. If they are a *cross*, as has been represented, I shall not conceal the fact, as I am pledged to give the truth, as far as possible, without fear or favor. I have received a pair of this variety from the yard of C. C. Plaisted, Esq., of Great Falls, N. H., and I can bear testimony to their being a very fine fowl; short legs, compact bodies, and possessing the good points of the best specimens of Shanghaes. The cock is a light-red, merging in brown. The hen is of a beautiful variegated plumage, partaking of the shades of the dominique fowl to some extent. I am opposed to multiplying *names* of fowls, without a good reason, and when they are not unquestionably a distinct breed; and if we admit the right of breeders to give a new name to every cross that is produced, we should soon find ourselves in a labyrinth of confusion in the nomenclature of our poultry.

In making these remarks, I do not wish to be understood as speaking in disparagement of these fowls, for I consider them as a very superior fowl, and one of those fortunate crosses (if they are a cross,) that produce a better fowl than either of the parents, and consequently sell at a higher price. I have not bred my specimens yet, having received them recently. I expect to produce some splendid samples next season, however, and I will then give a more detailed description of them in the Northern Farmer. They now sell at $10 to $15 a pair.

Here is Dr. Bennett's description of this variety. I have had no engraving taken of them, in consequence of their affinity to the Shanghaes. They are well represented in model by Mr. Hudson's cut of Shanghaes, before inserted, and the cuts which follow.

"This breed of fowls is ranked, by common consent, as one of the best varieties now bred in New England; and this position is accorded to them on account of size, beauty, and general valuable properties.

"The appearance of these birds is attractive, and exceedingly majestic. The color of the cocks is generally red and brown, and the hens are usually dark yellow. They bear large, single combs, and the wattles are large, also. The cheeks, or ear lobes, are large, and of a clear red. They have long necks and legs, and the legs are usually yellow, and frequently feathered, though some of the best specimens are without feathers, and are dark.

"They have four toes on each foot, and these are of extraordinary length. The wings and tails are very short, like those of the Cochin China fowl, and the plume feathers are of a beautiful green. The chickens feather slowly, but are very strong and healthy. They are seldom affected by disease, even when other breeds in the same yard are feeble and sickly. Though it may seem strange that birds which feather so slowly, should endure the rigors of a northern climate, yet these are among the most vigorous chickens, and stand the cold better than those which feather at an early age.

"The weight of these fowls is a remarkable characteristic. The imported pair are said to have weighed twenty-three pounds; the cock weighing upwards of thirteen pounds. I have one, eleven months old, from imported stock, which weighs a trifle over eleven and a half pounds.

"The difference in weight between the cocks and hens of this breed, is very great—in fact, they are rather disproportioned. For instance, a cockerel of mine, six months and fifteen days old, weighed nine pounds, *strong*, while the best pullet of the same brood, only weighed five pounds, at the same age. At the same time, I weighed a pair of my Brahma Pootras, five months and twenty-one days old—the cockerel drew eight pounds, and the pullet five pounds and a half—a much better proportion. On the whole, the Imperial Chinese are fully equal in size to the best specimens of grey Chittagong fowls, but are superior in fineness of flesh, and are decidedly better layers.

"The eggs of these fowls are of a medium size, and tinged with a salmon-color. There are no fowls more prolific. The imported hen, the mother of my fowls, laid 135 eggs in 147 consecutive days, and another of Mr. Marsh's hens, of this breed, laid 86 eggs in 91 consecutive days. They begin to lay early, usually at five months old, and lay continuously.

"Mr. Marsh says, under date of April 26, 1850, that he has 'a pullet hatched Dec. 23d, which began to lay April 23d.' One of mine, hatched April 10th, began to lay August 25th. In another letter, dated May 4th, 1850, Mr. Marsh says, 'one hen that has laid almost daily for the last seven months, has but lately evinced a desire to sit.'

"The committee of the Poultry and Bird Exhibition, at the Fitchburg Depot, Boston, on the 2d, 3d, and 4th of October, 1850, in speaking of the Imperials, say, page 2, 'the Marsh stock is now well known in New England, and is very highly valued;' they are 'noble birds, well bred, finely pointed, and very large.' Again, p. 12 and 13, the committee say, 'The *Imperial Chinese* fowls, contributed by Dr. Bennett, were splendid birds. The crower and pullet shown, were six and a half months old, [this is an error—they lacked eight days of being six months old,] and were very large—the cock weighing over

eight pounds. They were from the Marsh stock, of which mention has already been made.'

"The Boston Traveler says—'They are among the largest and finest fowls in the country, and are considered as one of the best importations ever made. They are unsurpassed as layers, and very fine fleshed.'

"Dr. Thomas Gailard, of Claiborne, Alabama, in a letter dated Sept. 23d, 1850, in speaking of these fowls, observes: 'You will inquire whether my expectations have been realized. I answer, entirely so. The Imperial Chinese are the most splendid fowls I ever beheld; and, although my anticipations were somewhat extravagant, they surpass the standard of excellence I have assigned to them. All who have seen them, concur in this estimate of their qualities. I have been already offered for a pair of chickens, when old enough to be taken from the mother, the cost to me of the parents, $15 a pair, besides the freight.'"

On sending me the specimens of "Imperial Chinese," Mr. Plaisted remarks:

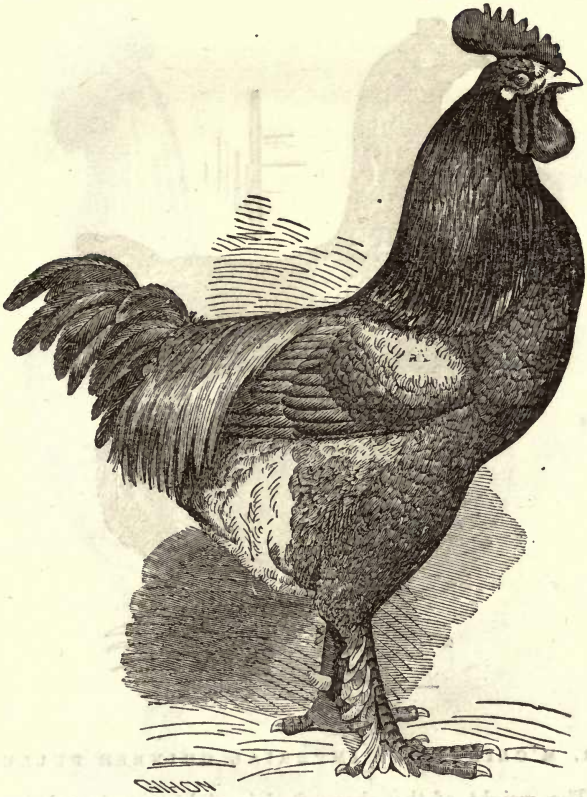
"The hen is one of my best specimens, for I want you to have the best stock in the country. She is in a heavy moult now, but when in feather is a splendid hen, and precisely the color and marks of the old imported hen that Mr. Marsh speaks of in his description, that laid 135 eggs in 147 days. I have one hen that weighs nine pounds, and the same color as yours. I would not part with her at any price. I have refused $15 for her, several times."

Geo. A. Smith, Esq., of Georgia, writes to Dr. Bennett as follows:

"The first pair of Imperial Chinese fowls I bought from you for my friend, Mr. A. B. Ross, have proved themselves to be a *trump*. At the time of our fair, in 1851, before the pullet was a year old, she had laid 120 eggs. Twenty-five of the chickens were on the ground, and were sold to one man for $125. He retailed them out for $180. From the 15th of January to the 15th of October, she laid 215 eggs. There was sent to the fair 66 chickens, of various sizes, that sold for $240, besides several pairs that were given away. They are among the finest fowls that I know of. They are large, and very hardy."

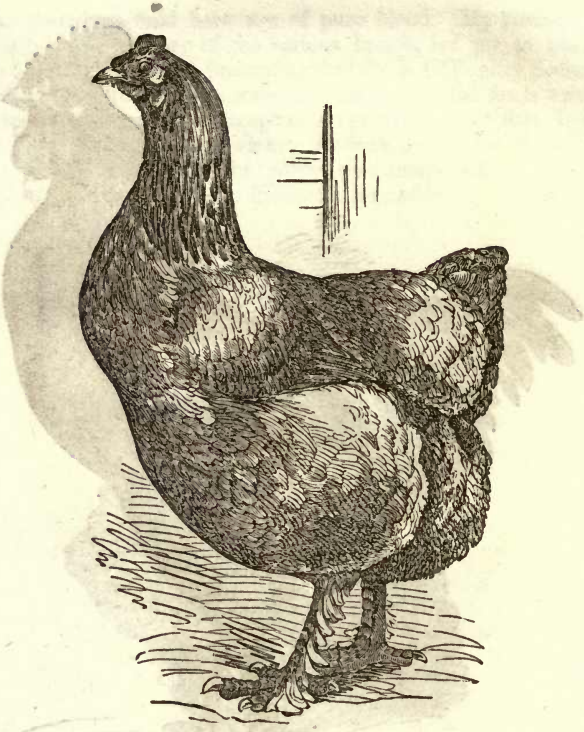
James McClintock, M. D., Professor in the Philadelphia College of Medicine, and who has a very extensive assortment of poultry, at his country residence in Bustleton, has recently imported from England some splendid specimens of "Imperial Chinese" fowls, known there (England,) as "*Partridge-colored Cochin Chinas*." I am assured by both Dr. Bennett and Dr. McClintock, that the foregoing descriptions may truly apply to this importation, as regards all the characteristics furnished by Dr. B. This indicates that these fowls are not a *cross*, as Dr. McClintock's importation are said to be a *pure* breed. I

hope that those bred here are of pure blood. My anxiety to furnish a *true* history of the various breeds, led me to make the foregoing remarks, presuming that the S. C. Poultry Society spoke with authority, and understandingly, and the fowls being so scarce and unknown, except to a few individuals, that I, in the haste of putting my work to press with the utmost despatch, to meet the demands of the public, was compelled to omit to apply for further and more distinct information.



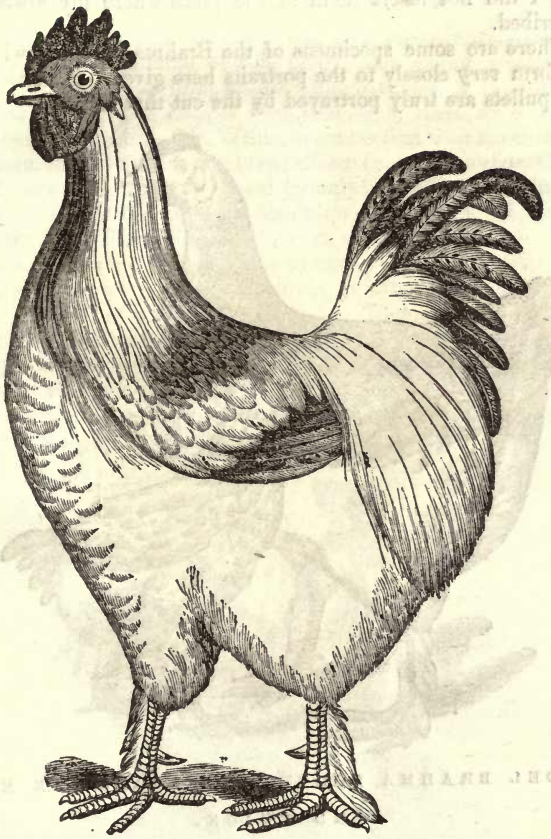
DR. M'CLINTOCK'S IMPERIAL CHINESE COCK.

The above is a true representation from life, of Dr. McClintock's Imperial Chinese rooster; weight nine pounds, but will probably draw eleven or twelve pounds when six months older. I learn that the flesh of this breed, as well as those bred in this country, is of a beautiful yellow when dressed. In brief, both the American bred and English fowls are splendid in model, plumage, &c., and must be popular.



DR. M'CLINTOCK'S IMPERIAL CHINESE PULLET.

The weight of the above fowl is eight pounds and three-quarters—as fine a hen as one need to look at. She is heavily feathered on the legs, which are short, and she has that compactness of body that always denotes a good fowl of any breed. Dr. McClintock may well be proud of such fowls, for their like is not often seen. They are however, not superior to the specimens that I have received from C. C. Plaisted, Esq., of Great Falls, N. H., who has a large number equally large and fine.

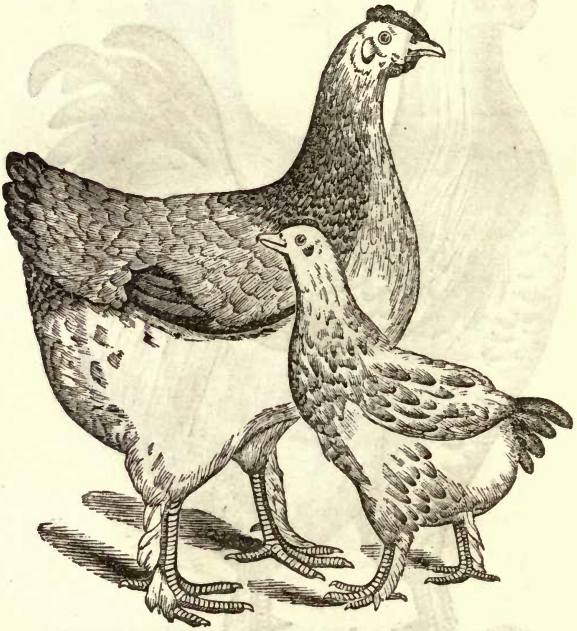


MODEL COCK.

This cut was originally designed to represent the "grey" Shanghaes, so called, or Brahma Pootra fowl, but I consider the design quite as appropriate for our lightest colored buff Shanghaes, as for any specimens of the above breed. My buff Shanghaes, to which I have previously alluded, are almost a *fac simile*, in model, at least, of these cuts. I have just received these portraits from my engraver, which is the reason

why I did not insert them at the place where my fowls are described.

There are some specimens of the Brahma Pootra fowl that conform *very* closely to the portraits here given. A portion of my pullets are truly portrayed by the cut that follows:



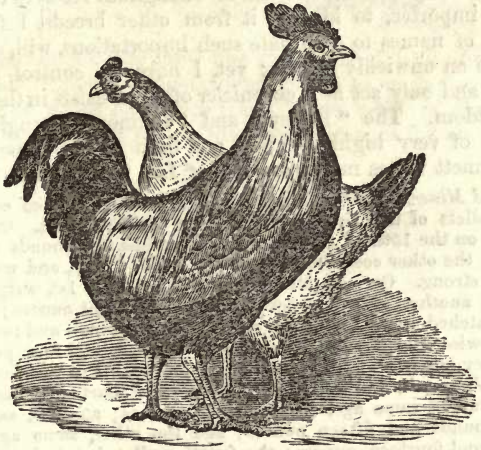
MODEL BRAHMA POOTRA, OR SHANGHAE HEN AND CHICK.

And if the dark pencilings of the neck were changed to a bright, yellow-brown hue, my buff Shanghae hen would have a perfect portrait.

Here I will observe, that these portraits are a guide in purchasing *good* fowls, of *all* breeds. See what beautiful, compact forms. These are none of your long, lean, lank, crane-looking fowls, all bones and offal, that have brought discredit on the really good breeds. The portraits are not original; I have copied them.

DOMINIQUE SHANGHAES.

This is a new and distinct breed, and recently imported. I had heard of the fame of this breed, and feeling desirous of being able to speak from *ocular* demonstration of their merits, I sent to A. White Esq., of East Randolph, Mass., for a pair of his best specimens. Mr. White, in connection with another gentleman, imported this rare breed direct from *Shanghae*, China, and these fowls are now owned by only a very few individuals in this country, that is, the *pure* dominique Shanghaes. Their shape is very much like the preceding cuts, and only differ from those portraits in *color*. They are of precisely the same blue-speckled hue of our native dominique fowls, yet they have every other characteristic of our best Shanghaes. Their legs are feathered, combs single and serrated, &c., like the buff, red, white and black breeds, and they will draw about the same number of pounds at maturity. The cock in my possession is pronounced by an experienced breeder as the best in Oneida Co. They are worth from $10 to $15 a pair.



P. MELLENDY'S DOMINIQUE SHANGHAES.

Mr. P. Mellendy, of Mount Healthy, Hamilton Co., Ohio, sent me the above cut, representing his dominique Shanghae fowls. He says:

"The above portraits represent a pair of fowls obtained from H. L. Devereux, Boston, Mass. The father and mother of the above pair, Mr. D. got of Dr. Kerr, of Philadelphia, which he imported in 1847. The cock is yellow, or redish dominique; the hens are of a dark-yellow. The cock is now eleven months old, and can reach thirty-four inches high; the hen stands about twenty-eight inches high. The plumage of the thorough-bred Shanghae is remarkably soft and silky, or rather downy, and is equally as good, for domestic purposes, as that of the goose."

These are a very different fowl from the White importation, such as I have received. They can hardly be called *dominique* Shanghaes.

I have received no detailed description of the dominique fowls imported by Mr. White, owing to the short time they have been in the country, and I must refer the interested reader to more full particulars in the Northern Farmer, when their merits are more fully developed.

"PERLEY" AND "PALMER" SHANGHAES.

Since every new importation of Shanghaes receives the name of the importer, to identify it from other breeds, I fear that the list of names to designate such importations, will, ere long, swell to an unwieldy length; yet, I have no control of these things, and only act as a chronicler of what exists in the empire of fowldom. The "Perley" and "Palmer" Shanghaes are spoken of very highly. They are both recent importations. Dr. Bennett writes me, under date of Jan. 9th, 1853, as follows:

Friend Miner,—To-day I forward to Mr. De Gruy, *two* cocks and *three* pullets of the Palmer importation of Shanghaes. One cock, hatched on the 15th of May last, which weighs ten pounds and two ounces; the other cock, hatched on the 20th of May, and weighs ten pounds, strong. One of the pullets, hatched July 1st, weighs eight pounds; another, same age, seven pounds and eight ounces; and the third, hatched on the 6th of August, weighs six pounds and ten ounces.

I likewise send Mr. De Gruy, to-day, *one* cock and four pullets of the Perley importation of Shanghaes. The cock was hatched on the 17th of June last, and weighs nine pounds and fourteen ounces. One of the pullets, same age, weighs eight pounds; another, same age, seven pounds and fifteen ounces; and the other, same age, seven pounds and fourteen ounces; the fourth pullet, hatched 20th July, weighs six pounds and twelve ounces.

Mr. De Gruy, here alluded to, is an extensive breeder of fowls in the suburbs of New Orleans.

The following letter was forwarded to me by Dr. Bennett:

GREAT FALLS, Jan. 9th, 1852.

DR. J. C. BENNETT—*Dear Sir:* You requested me to give you a description of the Palmer breed of fowls, which I will now endeavor to do. They are very large. I have known some of the cocks to weigh from twelve to thirteen pounds, at maturity, and have known young cocks, less than six months old, to weigh eleven pounds and upwards, and I raised two pullets that weighed twenty pounds and a quarter. My neighbor had one that weighed ten pounds and a quarter, which made the three thirty pounds and a half.

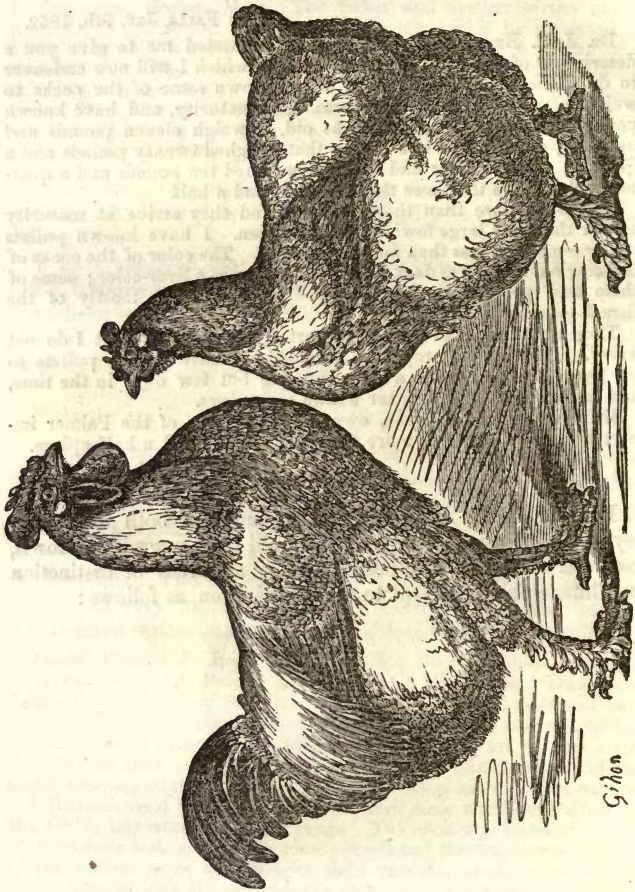
This is no more than their average, and they arrive at maturity earlier than any large fowl I have ever seen. I have known pullets to lay some days less than four months old. The color of the cocks of the original stock was dark-red; the hens were a liver-color; some of them had pea-combs—legs, green. They are now mostly of the thrush-color.

They were imported from some part of China, what part I do not know. Their laying properties are good. I have known pullets to lay from 75 to 85 eggs to a litter, missing but few days in the time, and to commence a new litter within eight days.

Mr. Wood, of Providence, owned nine pullets, of the Palmer importation, that averaged more than nine pounds and a half apiece.

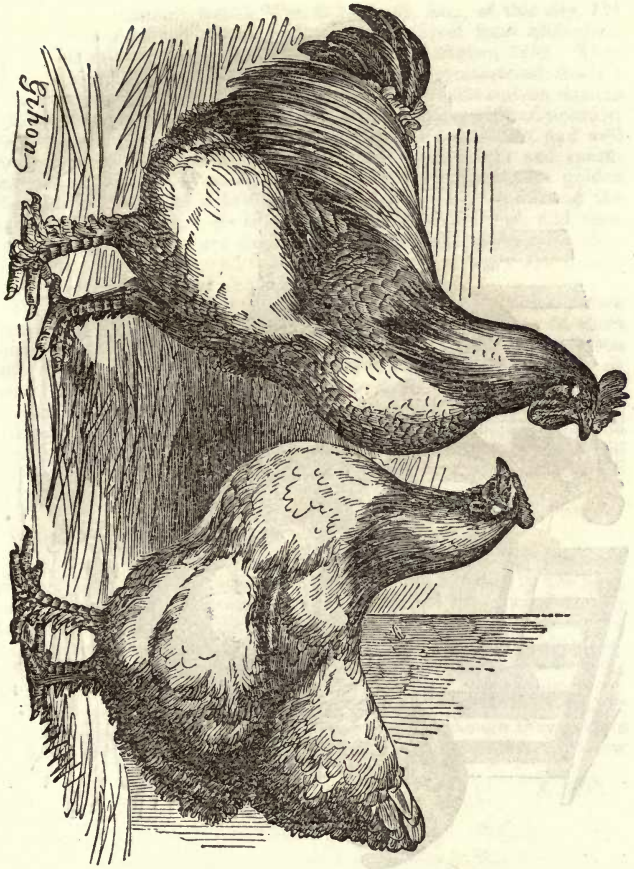
S. H. AUSTIN,
Great Falls, N. H.

Dr. McClintock has some fine specimens of both the "Perley" and "Palmer" importations, said to be magnificent fowls, portraits of which have been taken by an artist of distinction in Philadelphia, and sent to me for insertion, as follows:



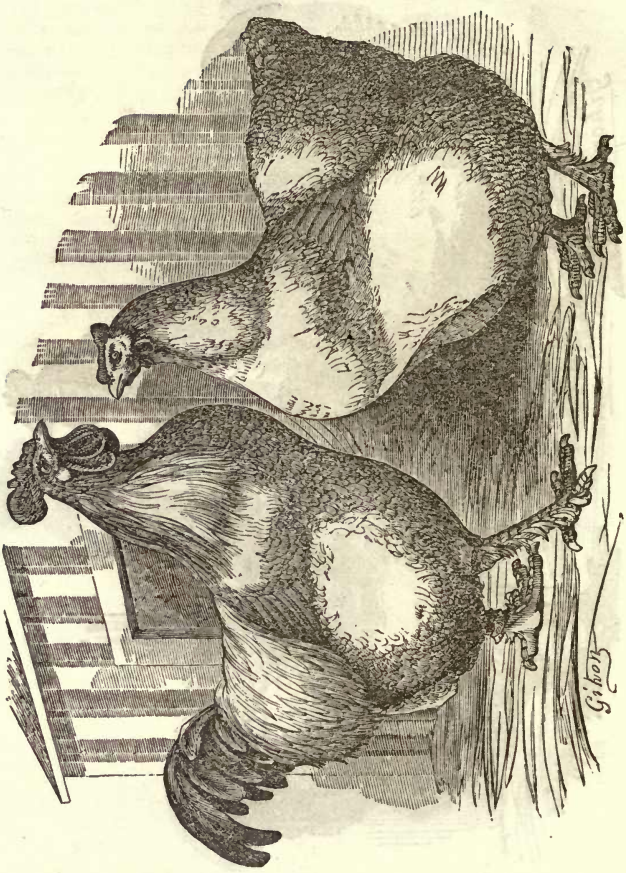
DR. M'CLINTOCK'S PERLEY SHANGHAES.

Dr. McClintock writes that his "Perley" rooster weighs ten pounds, fifteen ounces; eight months old; height, thirty and three-quarter inches. Hen, eight pounds and a half; eighteen months old.



DR. M'CLINTOCK'S PALMER SHANGHAES.

The cock here portrayed weighs nine pounds and three-quarters; six months old. Pullet, eight pounds and three-quarters, full; nine months old. Both breeds were furnished to Dr. McClintock by Dr. Bennett, from his splendid stock.



W. C. RUDMAN'S SHANGHAES.

The cock here represented is said to stand thirty and a half inches high; weight, eleven pounds; age, sixteen months. Pullet, weight, nine pounds; age, nine months.

Dr. McClintock writes me as follows:

On the 8th inst., my freind, Wm. C. Rudman, Esq., of this city, 121 Green street, received a cock and two hens, direct from Shanghae, China, which port they left about the 15th of October, 1852. They are a trio of the most beautiful and perfectly symmetrical fowls I have ever seen. The cock, which appears to be about sixteen months old, stands thirty inches high, and carries himself erectly and proudly. He weighs eleven pounds; his head is small; comb, single, and well serrated; beak, short and strongly formed; eyes, bright and sparkling; neck, beautifully made, and covered with feathers of a golden hue; body feathers of a brilliant reddish color; tail, small, and the feathers mostly black. He is very broad across the back, and compactly built; his legs are thick, strong, and relatively short; they are lemon-colored, and well feathered; he walks strongly and firmly, and with a majesty rarely equaled.

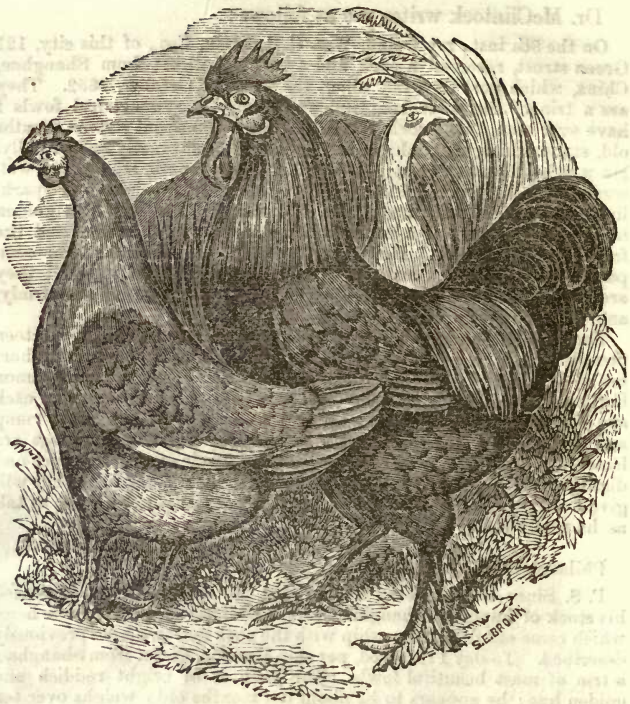
The hens, which appear to be about nine months old, weigh eighteen pounds full; they are most perfectly formed, with small heads, short beaks, bright, sparkling eyes, and small combs. One is of a cinnamon buff-color, the other is of somewhat lighter hue; the feathers on each are of almost uniform shade; the under surface of the body, rump and thighs, are well covered with soft, downy feathers; the legs are lemon-colored, strong and well feathered. Their carriage is erect and dignified, and altogether they are most admirable birds. The cut will give a very good idea of the hen, but the cock does not appear as tall as he really is.

Yours truly, JAMES MCCLINTOCK.

Philadelphia, Feb. 20th, 1853.

P. S. Since the foregoing was written, Mr. Rudman has increased his stock of imported Shanghaes by the addition of six very fine hens, which came out in the same ship with the cock and two hens previously described. To-day I received, per ship Horatio, direct from Shanghae, a trio of most beautiful fowls. The cock is of bright reddish and golden hue; he appears to be about ten months old; weighs over ten pounds; stands thirty-one inches. The hens are remarkably good; of a buff-color, some of the feathers slightly penciled with black; they weigh about seventeen pounds and a half, although they seem to have been rather badly fed lately. The three have feathered, yellow legs.

J. McC.



RED SHANGHAES.

The above cut represents a group of fine red Shanghaes, bred by Jno. Fussel, Esq., of Mass. The general character of these fowls is the same as that of all good, colored Shanghaes, and consequently they require no further description.

Since the foregoing matter was written on the "Palmer," "Perley," and other importations of Shanghaes, I have received the following further descriptions, from Dr. Bennett, now of Fort des Moines, Iowa:

"PALMER'S IMPORTATION.—This is the largest pure stock ever yet imported, from Shanghae. The cocks will weigh thirteen pounds, and the hens eleven pounds, at maturity, and occasionally they will exceed these weights. My friend, Solomon H. Austin, Esq., has pro-

duced chickens of this stock, which, at six months old, weigh eleven pounds and a half, cocks, and ten pounds, the pullets, each. The plumage of this stock is of a dark-mahogany color, very rich and beautiful. They have all the marks of the best of the Shanghae race—comb, single and serrated, though occasionally they have the pea-comb, wattles ordinary size, wings and tail short, legs heavily feathered, etc., etc.; but in the color of their legs they differ from their race, frequently having dark or greenish legs. Their eggs are very large, and they are equally prolific with other Shanghaes. A *cross* between the Palmer and the Perley Shanghaes, was called '*Cochin China*,' at the last fair (1852,) of the 'New England Society for the Improvement of Domestic Poultry,' and took the *first premium* as such! but I desire to be henceforth delivered from *all* CROSSES of fowls whatever.

"FORBES' IMPORTATION.—This excellent variety is known as the fawn-colored, or buff Shanghaes. The body is buff, the neck yellow, the back slightly penciled with light brown, of the hens; and the cocks are usually of a redish-dominique. They have all the other marks of the best Shanghaes. The cocks average from eight to ten pounds, and the hens from seven to eight pounds, at maturity, or at two to three years old. Though the eggs are rather small, the fowls are very prolific, and are greatly admired for their beauty.

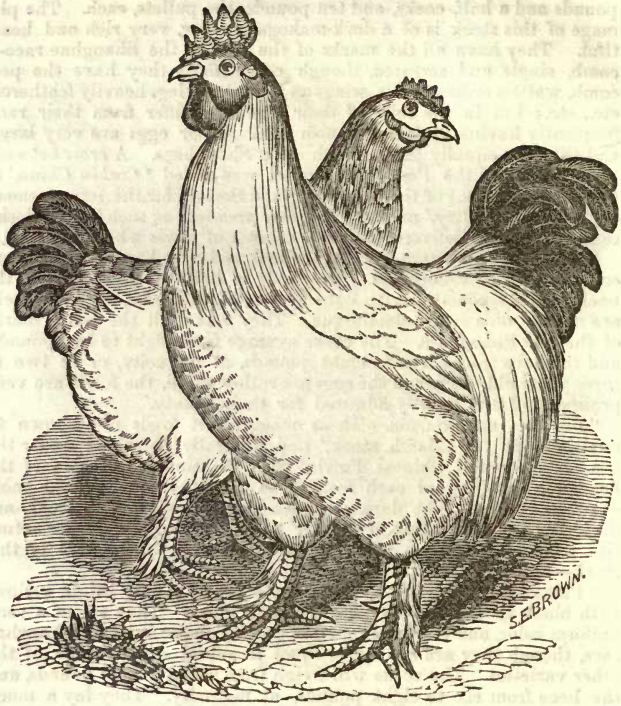
"FULLER'S IMPORTATION.—These magnificent fowls are known to novitiates as the 'Marsh stock,' and are fully described under the head of 'Imperial Chinese Fowls,' with the single exception of the beautiful penciling of each feather, as with the touch of the most exquisite master. The dark or green-legged fowls of this stock, are decidedly the best, being of greater specific gravity, of larger actual size, and more prolific. I now speak of the best importation of this stock—that of 1848.

"PERLEY'S IMPORTATION.—These birds are of a very bright yellow, with black tails, and neck penciled with black. They are of a very uniform color, and of greater specific gravity than any of the Shanghae race, though they are not quite equal in actual size to some of the other varieties. The cocks will weigh from seven to nine pounds, and the hens from six to eight pounds, at maturity. They lay a much larger egg than the buff Shanghaes, and are not near so feathery. The *hens* of this breed are the handsomest of any of the Shanghaes.

"PACKARD'S IMPORTATION.—These birds are perfectly black, though the cocks usually have some chesnut color mixed with red. Otherwise they resemble the '*Forbes' Importation.*' They are very handsome, and are much sought for.

"WHITE'S IMPORTATION.—These are the famous 'grey Shanghaes,' but more properly of a dominique, or owl-color. They are not the Brahma Pootras, by any manner of means, but are uniformly of a grey or dominique color, all over. They are fine looking birds, and have the usual marks of Shanghaes.

"WIGHT'S IMPORTATION.—This breed is perfectly white in plumage, both cocks and hens, and are very superior birds in every respect. They exactly resemble the black Shanghaes, with the exception of color."

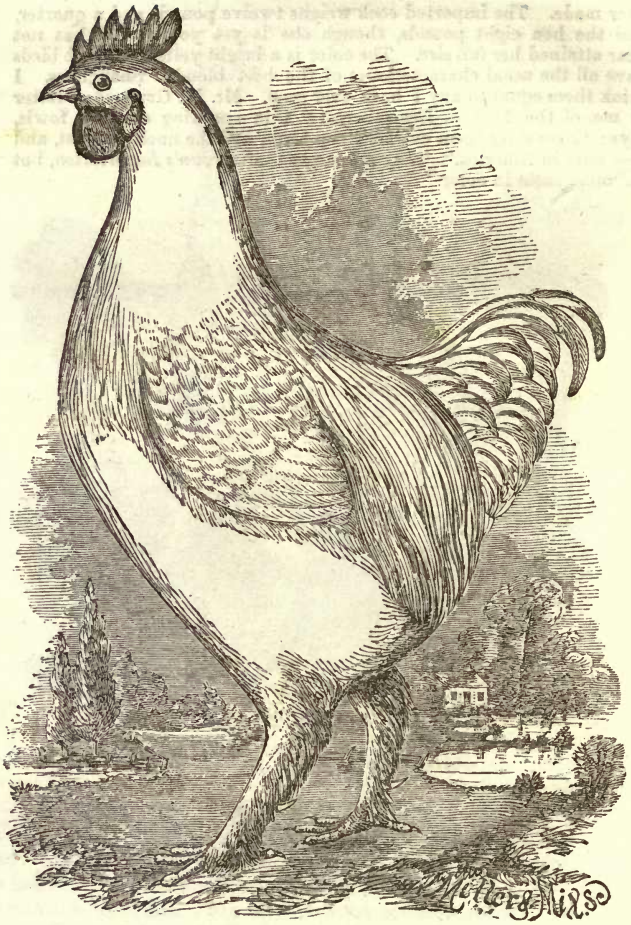


DE GRUY'S SHANGHAES.

A. Verloin De Gruy, Esq., of the firm of H. Tete & Co., Commission Merchants, No. 28 Conti st., New Orleans, to whom, as a celebrated importer and breeder of fowls, I have previously alluded, owns the fowls of which the above cut is a true representation from life. My New Orleans correspondents who have seen these fowls, and others belonging to this gentleman, are rapturous in praises of them, and I have no doubt that he has, as it is said, the most magnificent collection south of Mason & Dixon's line, the Potomac. I make the following extract from a letter from Dr. Bennett:

"De Gruy's Importation.—This is one of the very best importations

ever made. The imported cock weighs twelve pounds and a quarter, and the hen eight pounds, though she is yet young, and has not near attained her full size. The color is a bright yellow, and the birds have all the usual characteristics of the best blooded Shanghaes. I think them equal to any I have ever seen. Mr. De Gruy, in a letter to me, of the 10th of December, 1852, in speaking of these fowls, says: 'I consider them extraordinay birds, and the finest, largest, and best ones in America.' They are larger than *Brown's Importation*, but resemble them in color."



MR. D. P. NEWELL'S WHITE SHANGHAE.

The above cut was engraved for the Northern Farmer and this work. It looms up rather tall, but the reader must not judge of the size of the fowl by the comparative size of the cut.

Mr. Newell writes as follows:

"This cut is a *fac-simile* of my white Shanghae cockerel, which was drawn from life, and is a noble specimen of the Shanghae variety. In fact, I have never seen his equal. I obtained him, with some fine hens, from Mr. Smith, of Mass., who took the premium at the late exhibition of poultry in Boston. I have also Dr. Wight's importation of 1850; and I shall not have to breed in-and-in, a system that ought to be condemned by every one who raises fowls. I have been to the trouble and expense of obtaining these two different importations, so that my fowls, which I breed from, will not be in the least related; and I shall be able to produce larger and better fowls than those who have the cock and hen from the same brood.

"Dr. E. Wight (and there is no better authority,) remarks, that 'the white Shanghaes are larger and more quiet than other varieties. The flesh of these fowls is much superior, not sinewy or stringy, as is the case with the flesh of other Shanghaes. The eggs are larger, and the hens are more prolific than those of other colors, and in their habits, they are less inclined to ramble.' "

DR. EBEN WIGHT'S WHITE SHANGHAES

The last named fowls are identical with the breed, as reared by Mr. Newell.

They are generally heavily feathered on the legs, are purely white, and partake of the characteristics of the colored Shanghaes. It is a generally admitted fact, that every species of animate nature of a pure white, is less hardy than those of other colors, but Mr. White, of the firm of Parker & White, Boston, who is a fowl fancier, states in the "Poultry Book," as follows: "It will not perhaps, be out of place to say, that notwithstanding the popular opinion, that a white fowl is more delicate than a colored one, I have found the white Shanghaes very hardy."

The following communication is quite interesting:

Dear Sir,—Coincidences are sometimes singularly remarkable. I was just on the point of assuming my pen to acknowledge your kind favor of some few weeks since, when the Northern Farmer was put into my hand. It was as much as to say, "I shall be happy to hear from you." At the same time, my old white Shanghae rooster gave a loud and sonorous crow, as though *he* would say, "bear my respects to the gentleman, and tell him to beat that if he can."

Under these circumstances, I cannot withhold my pen, but true to the monitory sign, will speak a kind word in behalf of the noble chanticleer and his numerous family. This splendid bird is now eighteen months old, of the whitest and most beautiful plumage that ever adorned any of his race. He will stand by the side of a common flour barrel, and with great ease eat from the top of it. He has graced two exhibitions in this neighborhood, and refused to be sold, even at the price of $25. Were I a good draughtsman, you should have him, without cost, to adorn your publication; you should then see him to the life, with his keen eye and towering comb, nothing afraid to meet Johnny Dorking or any of his race. This is the only way in which I could consent to part with him.

My estimation of this breed of fowls has been in no wise diminished since I last wrote you, and though I am not disposed to lessen in any degree the value of other fowls of good breed, yet my firm conviction is, that the white Shanghae breed of fowls will, when better known, be the fowl that will bear the palm from every other. They lay eggs of a large size, and of a very rich quality. The rearing of their young is attended with very little trouble. One hen will give you, (generally speaking,) three broods of chickens in one season. And for table use, it may well be doubted if there be any fowl extant, (not excepting the Dorking,) that can vie with them in point of excellency.

By your publication, it is evident that some intend to make the Dorking fowl stand No. 1. This is all very well, for this reason, that it is more generally known than some others of the high class fowls. It is with me a favorite fowl—one that is justly highly valued; it is one of the very best breed of fowls; but the white Shanghae, in my humble opinion, is still better. No such success has ever attended

my efforts in the rearing of the Dorking fowls, as in those of the white Shanghaes. A gentleman of considerable experience, who has tested, as he thinks, thoroughly, the value of these two breeds, informs me, that he is so well convinced of the superiority of the white Shanghae over every other, that he intends now to confine his attention solely to this breed.

I have sent a number of this breed to the south and west, and nearly all who have written me on the subject, have expressed their unqualified approbation of the beauty and excellency of these fowls. A gentleman in this neighborhood, who obtained a pair, informed me a few days since, that for the last six months, the hen had given him an egg almost daily, with the exception of a few days, when she wanted to sit; he would then confine her for a short time, when, true to the mark, she again commenced her daily performance of duty.

There has been a disposition on the part of some, to cry down the imported breed of fowls; and they have gone so far as to state, that our native breeds are superior in almost every respect. You hear the terms *humbuggery, yankee notions*, and such kinds of slang, freely used. How little do such persons reflect, that such a course would preclude every improvement, and check the spirit of enterprise in every thing else. The truth is, that hundreds of fowls have been sold in our market, under the name of Shanghae, Cochin China, &c., which have scarcely any more relation to these fowls, than a turkey-buzzard; and because from such a worthless stock, nothing but disappointment could proceed, the *full-blooded* importation has been regarded as worthless fowls. Shall we look to such persons for testimony? Ought their declaration to have weight with men of candor and judgment? I hesitate not to say, there is *no humbuggery* in the full-blooded importations. If the experience of two years is worth anything, I am plain to declare, that they are a hardier fowl, better layers, and better for the table, than our native breeds, and that it costs no more to keep them than common fowls. Such has been my experience, be it worth more or less.

It is a good thing that you have opened the columns of your paper to this subject. It matters not whose opinion is crossed, so that truth only have fair play. If the Dorking fowl, or any other, can be proved to be superior to the white Shanghae—if even the *native* breeds, (as some assert,) can be *proved* more excellent than the imported—then will we bow with deference to superior judgment, and bid our favorite chanticleer shut up his mouth and crow no more.

There is a question of some importance which occurs to me, viz how far the diversity of climate may operate in reference to our imported fowls. A gentleman of New England, now present with me, remarks, in reference to the white Shanghaes, that he has never seen any fowls of this kind equal to my stock, although he has attended all the poultry fairs in New England, and is well acquainted with Dr. Wight, and other gentlemen, who have these fowls. He was much astonished to see how greatly the superiority of the progeny had exceeded the parent stock which was sent me from New England. To what can we attribute this but to the difference of climate? May not our climate in Pennsylvania be better adapted to this class of fowls

than the more rigorous climate of New England? It is here thought with regard to the *native* breeds, that our Pennsylvania fowls exceed in size and excellency, all others. I pretend not to throw out conjectures, but to state facts, and leave you to form your own conclusions. That some fowls are better adapted to some climates than others, and their qualities more freely developed, is a fact that will not, I think, be disputed.

There is another question to which I would direct your attention, viz: Have we, in this country, the *pure* Cochin China fowl? There are some writers who assert that we have not, while others assert to the contrary. I hope you will be able to throw some light on this vexed question, in your new work. Some of my white fowls I have been in the habit of terming the white Cochin China, for the reason that many have made a distinction between those fowls that are feathered on the leg, and those which are not; the latter being termed the Cochin China. There is a great difference in the color of the egg; in this latter class, they are of a brown or chocolate shade. An English gentleman who lately visited my poultry yard, on examining these eggs, observed, that they were exactly similar to those of the celebrated Cochin Chinas belonging to Queen Victoria, and that the dark or purple spots, generally seen on the eggs, were considered indicative of the purity of the breed, as also of high qualities of the fowl.

I have several pairs of the "Bailey" and "Parsons" imported Shanghaes; they are considered far superior to the Forbes and Marsh stock, although they never attain to the size of the latter. They are most excellent layers, and very superior for the table. They are worth from $6 to $8 per pair. I have disposed of several of the white Shanghae fowls, but have never sold any for less than $15 the pair.

Yours truly,

SAMUEL A. BUMSTEAD.

In the above communication, Mr. Bumstead alludes to a white fowl, bred in Pennsylvania, resembling the white Shanghaes, which he calls white "*Cochin China*" fowls. As there is no such breed known among the New England fanciers, and in fact, none existing anywhere, that can properly be thus named, it is safe to say that the name is incorrect. Mr. B. writes further, as follows:

But while much has been written favorably, concerning the qualities of these fowls, yet none that I have met with have alluded to the difference existing between the white Cochin China and the white Shanghae, seeming rather to class these two kinds under that of the latter, whereas there is in some respects a difference. Those of the white Cochin China breed, lay a much browner-colored egg than the former, and their wings are much smaller and higher up on the body. The male bird of the Cochin China has also the power of doubling his wings, which is not the case with that of the white Shanghae.

Some have denied this peculiarity as belonging to this fowl, stating that there is no double joint in the wing, which gives the bird the

property of underlapping the posterior portion of the wing. Let this be true or not, there is in the Cochin China which I possess, a peculiar propensity to do this, which does not exist in any other fowl that I have seen or heard of. I have two very fine Chinese crowers, perfectly white, and seemingly uniform in their general qualities, yet it is impossible to look at these fowls in a hot summer day, without noticing this peculiarity, which thus distinguishes the white Cochin China. I have seen this bird for hours, with his wing thus doubled up, as if to enjoy the influence of a passing breeze. This has not been noticed in the white Shanghae. One writer asserts, that this is peculiar to the bird only in winter, and for the purpose of securing warmth, whereas, in my fowls, it is more particularly noticeable in summer, and, as I conceive, for the purpose of *avoiding the heat.*

Apart from all this, what has been written on the value of these fowls, we may receive as correct. No one who has had trial of this breed, can speak too highly in their commendation; and I feel persuaded, that when they become generally known, they will become the favorite fowl of all others.

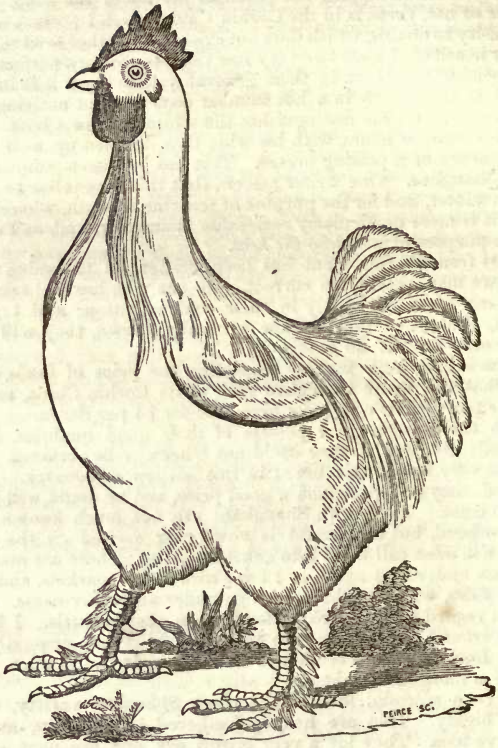
In answer to your inquiry respecting the price of fowls, I would state, that the white Shanghae and white Cochin China, are worth $15 the pair; their eggs have been sold for $4 per dozen.

With the knowledge I possess of their good qualities, I would cheerfully give $25, if they could not otherwise be obtained. There are but very few of this breed in this section of country. In New England, they still command a good price, and no doubt will for some time to come. The brown Shanghaes are not much known in this neighborhood, but an interest is now being excited on the subject, which will soon call them into general notice. There are many fowls that pass under that name, as I have seen in our markets, and at some of our *fairs*, which might as well go under any other name.

With regard to the Dorking fowl, I can say but little. I know of no one around me that has the pure breed. What generally passes for the Dorking in this section of country, is, in the opinion of good judges a mongrel breed.

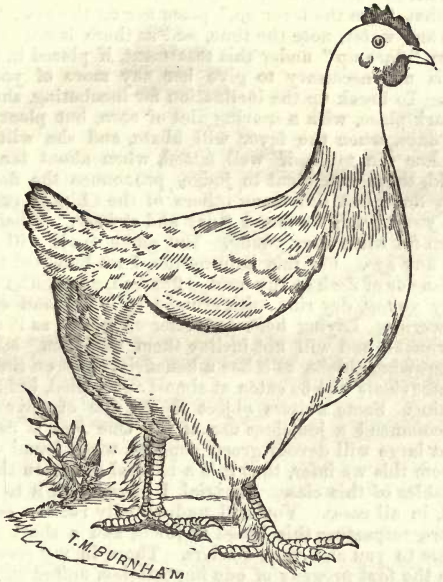
I have a splendid fowl of the black Shanghae variety, which I regard highly. They are heavily feathered on the legs, and some have five toes. They lay a very brown egg, and are most excellent nurses to the young chicks. They are a noble fowl.

S. A. B.



WHITE SHANGHAE COCK.

Dear Sir,—The cuts representing the white Shanghae fowls, which I send you, were drawn before they had attained their full size, and consequently are not so perfect, in some respects, as if taken at a later period; but it is a fair representation, being a little below, rather than above their real appearance, which I do not regret. They are large and compact, perfectly white, with yellow legs, very docile when well treated, lively, exceedingly healthy, very handsome, and noble-looking. I have never known them to fight, unless provoked in some way, when they battle with a good share of energy. As we judge of value by comparison, I will state, that I have tried many of the breeds now in vogue, including the black Spanish, red and buff Shanghaes,



WHITE SHANGHAE HEN.

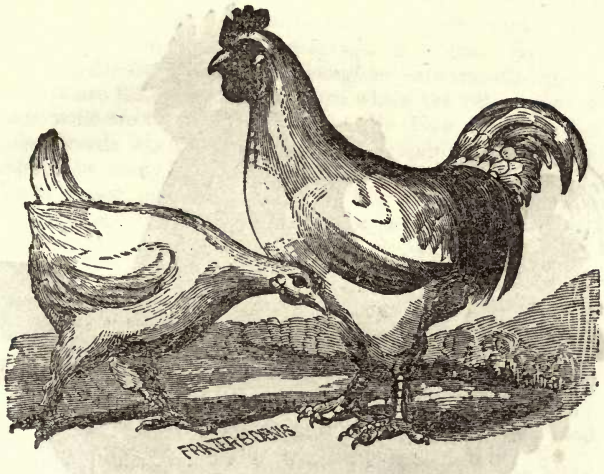
Cochin Chinas, and a number of others, too numerous to mention. I am well aware, that the dark-colored Chinese fowls have had, and still hold, to a great extent, the reputation of being the largest and best; but on a fair trial, all being kept in the same coops together, from first to last, the result was in favor of the white Shanghaes, somewhat contrary to my expectations. Their growth is slower than many other breeds, not reaching their full size until the second year, and generally weighing, at the expiration of the first, about two-thirds as much as when fully grown. To enable you to imagine how the chickens look, I weighed a number this morning, being just six months since they were hatched. The cocks drew *seven pounds*, the pullets *five pounds and six ounces*. There may be, and no doubt are, many other fowls, larger at this age; but these, when grown, will weigh from eighteen to twenty pounds per pair. This is speaking within bounds. As regards their laying, I have pullets (in fact, all I have of this breed,) that have laid constantly, from the first of last February, until the present time. The inclination to lay commences when from six to seven months old. If for no other motive, I should keep a few of this breed for sitters and nurses, for, in my estimation, it would be far better than to employ any others, if we except the Dorking.

When I wish to "set a clutch of eggs," I proceed to the poultry house, take one that "has the fever on," place her on the nest, provide her with corn and water, note the time, and as there is not the least disposition to "flare up" under this treatment, if placed in a new location, it is not necessary to give her any more of your time or attention. To break up the inclination for incubating, shut the fowl up in a dark place, with a sparing diet of corn, but plenty of water, for a few days, when the fever will abate, and she will commence laying. For the table, if well fatted, when about ten or twelve months old, those competent to judge, pronounce the flesh of these fowls very fine; but, like many others of the Chinese race, if killed when too young, will be found "dry and stringy," it being hard to make them fat when very young. The game fowls will "flesh up" at almost any age. For this information, I am indebted to others, as I am no fancier of flesh in any form. For feed, give millet and wheat; when very young, dry rice, with crumbs of bread, and cooked beef, or angle worms. Laying hens do better on wheat, as it affords sufficient nutriment, and will not incline them to fatten. Millet is very good for growing chicks, as it has a beneficial effect on the feathering. Burnt oyster shells will be eaten at almost any period, but particularly when laying. Some writers object to the use of Cayenne pepper, others recommend a judicious use of it. One fact is certain, fowls running at large will devour green peppers, when found within their reach; from this we infer, that it is a natural desire on their part to eat vegetables of this class. On trial, I have found it to prove very beneficial, in all cases. You will undoubtedly receive contributions from others, respecting this breed of fowls, and a short explanation will be due to you and your readers. Those in my possession were bred from the first progeny of one importation, united with a cock of this year's import, gaining by this, an improvement in size and model, and being entirely free from the clumsy gait of many others, an objection that I have removed. As this communication is now somewhat longer, than I at first intended it to be, it will be necessary for me to draw it to a close very soon, but I cannot do so without giving due credit to the gentleman who imported the stock from which those in my possession were bred, as I know Dr. Wight to be a fowl fancier of the first order, and one that pursues it for the sake of science, rather than for the profit he might gain by it, if he were so disposed. Hoping this sketch of the management and peculiarities of the above mentioned breed, will be of service to you in making up your forthcoming work on poultry, and promising to communicate for your periodical, the result of many experiments in breeding I now have under way, and many I intend to try as soon as time will permit,

I am respectfully yours, in the cause
of this branch of natural science,

JOSEPH S. HILDRETH,
No. 51 Court st., Boston.

To T. B. MINER, Esq.



P. MELLENDY'S WHITE SHANGHAES.

MOUNT HEALTHY, Hamilton Co., Ohio.

This fowl is entirely white, and differs in no material respect from the red, yellow, and dominique, except in color. They are broad on the back and breast, with a body well rounded up, the plumage white, with a downy softness—much like the feathering of the Bremen goose in this respect; the tail feathers short and full; the head small, surmounted by a small, single, serrated comb; wattles long and wide, overlaying the cheek-piece; the legs are of a yellow hue, approaching a flesh-color, and featherless. The eggs are larger, and the hens more prolific than those of other colors.

P. MELLENDY.

This breed of fowls is very popular. I have a very fine pair, perhaps the best in the State, and shall have a few pairs to dispose of in the fall. It costs no more to keep a *good* fowl than a *poor* one, and the *original* cost never deters me from procuring the best breeds in the country; and if I have an indifferent breed, that I cannot truly recommend, they go into the pot, whatever their cost may have been. These fowls now sell at $10 a pair, for good specimens, six months old, and eggs from $3 to $4 a dozen. I refer to the best modeled fowls. There are some that are not worthy taking as a gift.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.

This drawing represents a fine group of domestic fowls, known as the "*Cochin China;*" a race of birds belonging to the great tribe of Chinese, or Eastern poultry, and comprised in the *gallus giganteus* of modern ornithologists. The two samples above delineated, were selected from the stock of Geo. P. Burnham, Esq., of Boston, Mass., who has imported several lots of these fowls from England and China, and were drawn from life, and engraved accurately from the originals.

Notwithstanding what has been written in reference to this breed, there remains little doubt in the minds of experienced

breeders, that the "Cochin China" (so *called*,) and the red "Shanghae" fowl, are identical, or very nearly so—that is, that both originate from the same parentage in China. Some of these—both the Cochin and the Shanghae—are smooth-legged, and others are feathered on the legs, while the other general characteristics are very similar in both. Be this as it may, either of these breeds when well-selected and properly cared for, is considered by many as good enough for all useful purposes.

The following general remarks, by Mr. Burnham, describe his imported specimens—which samples are adjudged by some of our best breeders, to be among the choicest domestic fowls in America. He says:

"A variety of opinions has been given, and a great difference of opinion still exists, among fanciers, in regard to what is, really, the *true* 'Cochin China' fowl. The first bird of this noble variety, which the public were ever made acquainted with, however, were those sent to Queen Victoria, a few years ago, as a present from China, by one of her foreign ministers. This lot comprised two cocks and four hens, and upon their arrival in England, they were pronounced 'most extraordinary specimens of poultry.'

"An illustration, comprising portraits of a group of these birds, soon afterwards appeared 'by permission of the Queen' in the 'London Illustrated News;' and these birds were set down, at once, by all who saw them, and who were at all acquainted with poultry, as decidedly the finest samples of domestic fowls ever brought into England."

A pair were presented to Lord Heytesbury at Dublin, by her Majesty, and afterwards were bred by Mr. Nolan. Mr. Burnham obtained his fowls direct from that gentleman, at a high cost. There were six chickens in that lot, brought over to America in the winter of '49 and '50. A rooster and pullet of this importation is portrayed in the preceding cut, which was taken from life, by Mr. Brown, of Boston, soon after their arrival in America.

These fowls were, generally, smooth-legged. One of these imported cocks exhibited a very slight germ of feathering upon the leg—but four-fifths of the progeny of this importation come without any feathering upon the legs. Their general color is a rich, glossy brown; the comb is a medium size, serrated, but not deeply so, and the wattles are double. Besides their size, however, these fowls possess other distinctive characteristics. The flesh is white and delicate. The eggs laid by the hen of this breed, are of a salmon, and sometimes of a chocolate color, and possess a very delicate flavor.

The Queen's fowls, said to be received from Cochin China, were smooth-legged; but of a subsequent importation by Mr. Burnham, direct from Canton, five were smooth, and one was feathered on the legs. These last fowls proved of extraordinary weight at two years old; and up to this time, the stock has been bred together by Mr. B., with very excellent success. In the past year's product, perhaps one-fourth of all the chicks show more or less feathering upon the legs, though Mr. B. selects his breeding stock, invariably, with the smooth limb. All the *other* characteristics remain unchanged from the original, in this stock. The size, color, form, invariable single comb, and average weight—all, are like the parent stock.

The full grown cocks of this breed, will weigh, at twenty to twenty-four months of age, from nine and a half to ten and a half pounds; the hens, at the same age, will draw seven to eight pounds; year old cocks will draw eight to nine pounds; and the finest year old pullets, from six to seven pounds each. This is the extent of their weights, generally, but in some cases, they exceed these weights.

We consider these fowls to be a good breed, but not equal to some other kinds now among us, nor are they selling at so high rates generally, as several other breeds that we can mention.

Those fanciers, however, who desire to purchase "Cochin China" fowls, will find the best specimens in possession of Mr. Burnham, who has probably had more experience in raising and dealing in this breed, than any other person in this country.

Mr. Burnham is correct when he says, that there is a differerence of opinion among fanciers, in regard to what is the *true* Cochin China fowl. The following communication shows that these fowls are not entitled to the name they have hitherto received:

TAUNTON, March 20th, 1851.

Dear Sir,—I believe it was in October, 1849, that I sent you some China fowls, which were erroneously called "Cochin China"—but their true name was Shanghae—and they never should have had any other name, as that was their native place, and so, of course, should have been their legitimate name. And who first gave the name of Cochin China to this particular breed, I never could ascertain—neither could I arrest its progress after it had started.

I received from my nephew, Nicholas Baylies, in July, 1846, from Shanghae, in China, two pairs of fowls, which he recommended as a superior breed for the table, and very large. Some of this importation were sent to Plymouth, and about Plymouth county, where they were well received, and some one gave them the imposing name

of Cochin China. I had heard so much of Cochin China, and Royal Cochin China, that I took pains, in February, 1850, to write to Nicholas Baylies, of Shanghae, China, to procure a pair of this breed, if they were superior to the variety that he had already sent me. And in September, 1850, I received his answer, to this effect—that he had a friend in Cochin China, who was a missionary, and from him he could get all the information required.

February 10th, I received from the same kind friend, a beautiful pair of Shanghae fowls, the cock weighing eight and a half pounds, and the hen seven pounds, and with them the reply to his inquiry, from his friend, the Rev. W. Dean, a Baptist Missionary, which is as follows:

HONG KONG, 25th Oct., 1850.

My Dear Mr. Baylies,—I have just returned from Siam and Cochin China, but in answer to the inquiry of your note of July, I can only state, that while in Cochin China, I saw the *fowls* in the market, and in the villages, and we bought them for use on ship-board, but I *saw none but the common small fowl*, and none to be compared to the *Shanghae fowl*. Neither in Cochin China, nor Siam, nor elsewhere, have I seen so large fowls as those from Shanghae, neither have I heard of such, at any other place.

As I have twice visited Cochin China, and been in their markets and villages, I think I am safe in saying that they have not the large fowl you speak of.

I am happy to report my health as very good, and have had a pleasant visit at our mission station in Siam.

With kind regards to Mrs. Baylies,

I am very sincerely yours.

W. DEAN.

The above note from the Rev. Mr. Dean, puts a quietus to the "Cochin China" variety.

I am well satisfied with the Shanghae variety, and if there are larger varieties, there are none *better*, in my opinion, than the Shanghae. They certainly improve very much in size and form when bred among us, from those imported; and the reason is obvious. Fowls of four or five months old, put on board of ship in China, and subjected to a voyage of five months, with scanty fare, and cooped up without much exercise, must of necessity get sadly cramped in form and size—and I have good authority for such opinion. A letter from Nicholas Baylies, of June, 1850, says, among his fowls, he frequently has chickens of seven months old, that stand two feet and eight inches. Allowing this to be truth, which I doubt not, what may we not expect when they are full grown.

Yours respectfully,

ALF. BAYLIES.

JOSEPH A. SAMPSON, Esq., Boston.

Thus it appears, that our so-called "Cochin China" fowls, may have originated in the vicinity of the city of Shanghae, or in any other part of China, except "*Cochin China.*" Mr. Burnham admits, himself, that this breed is identical with *red*

Shanghaes, and in truth, they all ought to be classed under one and the same name.

My own candid opinion in regard to the "Cochin China" fowls is, that they do not equal the *best Shanghaes* in the valuable qualities that constitute a good fowl. They are generally less compact in form, have longer legs, and lay smaller eggs. Such is my experience, and the opinions of breeders with whom I have conversed on the subject, or from whom I have received written correspondence. I have none of the warm, enthusiastic eulogy that appears in favor of *Shanghaes*, to offer my readers in praise of "Cochin Chinas," for the reason, that it has not been sent to me, and has not appeared in the public journals, anywhere, to my knowledge; and I have access to about all of an agricultural character, and many besides. It is true, that glowing accounts of these birds have appeared in some of our late works on domestic poultry, but these descriptions are mere echoes of foreign authors; and when our works on domestic poultry were written, the "Cochin China" fowls were almost entirely unknown in this country; consequently, the descriptions given in those works could not have been from any actual experience of their authors; but they were compelled to resort to foreign authorities, which are incorrect in many particulars, as has been demonstrated.

Nolan, an Irish fancier, thus speaks of this breed, in his treatise on ornamental and aquatic fowls:

"Full-grown cocks, from one and a half to two years old, average a weight of from ten to twelve pounds; the hens, from eight to nine pounds. The male bird stands about two feet high; the female, about twenty-two inches. The plumage of the cock is black-breasted red; they are brown-breasted, and sometimes of a lighter color; the hens are generally of a rufus yellow, or incline to a rufus brown, sometimes speckled, and are wide on the breast and back; the cock's comb is usually single, serrated, and erect, of a brilliant scarlet, but not always single; I have had both single and double combs in the same clutch; the wattles are large; they are quite free from top-knot; the hackles on the neck and hips, yellowish brown; the tail, black, with metalic luster, and when fully furnished, presents the usual cock's plume; the legs vary from a flesh-color to an orange yellow, and are not so long as in the Malay; the eggs are generally buff-colored, of large size, and blunt at the ends; the chickens progress rapidly in size, but feather slowly, so that an early clutch would be most valuable, as passing through the milder summer months. I cannot discover the doubling of the wings, or horse-shoe markings, described by some writers, in any of my stock; I think, if it did exist, it was purely accidental."

Here you have about all that can be said of importance, in regard to the "Cochin Chinas." The testimony is in—render your own verdict. These fowls sell at all prices, from $3 up, and it is *said* that Mr. Burnham paid $100 for the pair of *premium* "Cochin China" fowls at the poultry fair in Boston, November, 1852!

They have some good specimens in England, as appears from the following extract from the London "Mark Lane Express":

"One of the most interesting sales we have ever witnessed, came off under the able auspices of Mr. Strafford, auctioneer, at the Bazaar in Baker street; and we hope it is a prelude to something better, for with the growing feeling in favor of poultry, both as an amusement, and an important feature in our domestic economy, we must have a metropolitan show of poultry, and no longer oblige their admirers to travel far into the country for an opportunity to compare their specimens. We are led to the foregoing observations from noticing what has taken place at the above yard in November last, in the sale of Mr. Sturgeon's Cochin China fowls, and again on Thursday and Friday in last week; there cannot be a second opinion but that the Bazaar is the best place for such an exhibition. At the sale of Mr. Sturgeon's splendid fowls, wet as the day was, the place was filled, and all were much delighted with the sight as a show, and a first-rate one too, and surprised that 170 almost faultless specimens could be produced in one yard.

"Of the sale itself, there seemed to be but one opinion—admiration of the fowls, and among the uninitiated, surprise at the prices; and certainly we must consider it one of the most extraordinary sales that ever took place, and there must have been much confidence in the breeder, quality in the birds, and emulation amongst those in attendance, to have produced £609 for 170 chickens! It is true that Mr. Sturgeon's breed stands at present unrivalled; but superior as his birds unquestionably are, an average of £3 11s. is what we were not prepared for. Amongst those present, we noticed Lord Ducie, Mr. Wakeley, Sir Eneas M'Donald, Messrs. Punchard, Johnson, Gilbert, Steggal, Fletcher, Catlin, Ambler, Reynolds, &c., &c. A curious fact occurred at the sale of lot 12; when the hammer fell at £7; a foreign gentleman present exclaimed, "Seven pounds—can that be for *von hen?*" The highest price was £12 10s., given by Mr. Hodginson for a cockerel by "Jerry," hatched the first week in April last."

CHITTAGONGS.

A few individuals who are raising this breed of fowls, would make it appear that they are identical with the BRAHMA POOTRAS. The Brahmas selling at so much higher rates than the Chittagongs, renders it to the *interest* of these gentlemen to merge the two breeds in one; but I shall block that game at the outset. Mr. G. P. Burnham, of Mass., who is laboring to

show that they are identical with Chittagongs, and Chittagongs with *grey Shanghaes*, thus described this breed in Dr. Bennett's Poultry Book, in 1850:

"The Chittagong is a very superior bird, showy in plumage, courageous, and exceedingly hardy. The color of mine is *grey*, generally, interspersed with lightish *yellow* and white feathers, upon the pullets. The rooster is *grey* body; the wings, hackles, back and rump feathers, a silvery *yellow*, tinted with stray light *brown* and white; the tail and breast are nearly black.

"The legs of this fowl are of a reddish flesh-color; the meat is delicately white; the combs, large and single; wattles, very full; wings, good size. The legs are more or less feathered; the model is graceful; carriage, proud and easy; action, prompt and determined."

Here we have a true description of the *Chittagongs*. The reader will please note the colors, "*grey*," "*yellow*," "*brown*," and "*black*," and then turn to the description of the Brahma Pootras, by the same gentlemen, in this work, written in 1852, in which not one word in regard to "*brown*," "*yellow*," and "*black*," appears, and he can judge the merits of the case without any comment of mine. The truth is, the Chittagongs are a large, clumsy fowl, with no other merit, except *size*, when compared with our best breeds. Geo. A. Smith, Esq., of Geo., in speaking of various breeds of fowls, in a communication to me, says:

"They are a large, lazy fowl. I think them poor layers and bad sitters, and are pretty sure to have the gout. I should not advise any one to have them."

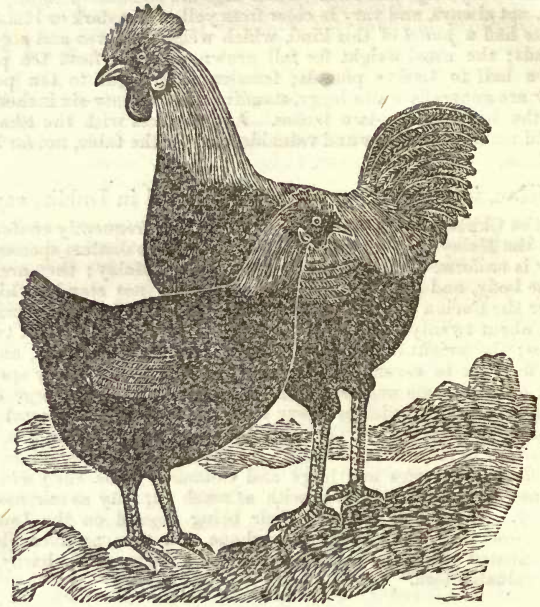
The size of these fowls is nearly equal to our largest breeds, weighing from eighteen to twenty pounds per pair, when eighteen months old. Dr. Kerr says, in his work:

"In and around Philadelphia, we have a large fowl, to which the above name has been incorrectly given, as, on further acquaintance, it has proved to be a mongrel, and like most mongrels, comparatively worthless. Until within a short time, it went under various names, as Ostrich Fowl, the Turkey breed, the Big breed, the Booby, the Bucks County Fowl, and even the Malay. It is difficult to trace its history. Some forty years ago, several large fowls were brought hither from different parts of China, the East Indies, and the adjacent isles; subsequently, and within a few years, others were added. These all, except in a very few cases, have been mixed, and breed indiscriminately; and the result is the fowl to which, a cording to the caprice of the people, the above names have been applied. It is of all colors, from black to white, frequently speckled, sometimes red and black, and again dun. When bred, it will generally produce its like in point of *size*, but rarely in point of *color*, showing it, unquestionably, to be a mixture of several original breeds. They are not very good layers, though their

eggs are very large and rich. Their legs are sometimes lightly feathered, not always, and vary in color from yellow to a dark or bluish hue. I once had a *pullet* of this kind, which weighed eleven and a quarter pounds; the usual weight for full grown males, is from ten pounds and a half to twelve pounds; females, from eight to ten pounds. They are generally quite leggy, standing some twenty-six inches high, and the hens twenty-two inches. A first cross with the Shanghae would make a *very large* and valuable bird for the table, not for breeding from."

Nolan, in his work on poultry, published in Dublin, says:

"The Chittagongs is another eastern variety, frequently confounded with the Malay; there is no doubt of its being a distinct species; the color is uniform, or nearly so; not so with the Malay; they are large in the body, and short on the legs. They do not stand so high as either the Cochin China or Malay; the cock stands, in his ordinary way, about twenty-two inches in height, and the hens about twenty inches; the weight of the cock is from eight to ten pounds, and the hens from six to seven pounds; the plumage is uniformly speckled grey, or what some understand as cuckoo-colored, with large comb, free from top-knot, with ordinary sized wattles; hackles partaking of the same mottled grey of the rest of the plumage; the tail is small in proportion to their size; the legs vary, being occasionally white, blue, or yellow; the eggs are large and abundant; the early chickens advance in size and plumage with as much rapidity as our common poultry. There is no doubt of their being crossed on the Dorking, which fowl they much resemble in shape, and then produce what is denominated the grey Dorking; they are a large sized, hardy, and very valuable bird."



HONG KONG FOWLS.

This cut represents a pair of Hong Kong fowls owned and bred by C. C. Plaisted, Esq., of Great Falls, N. H. Mr. P. writes me as follows:

This mammoth breed of fowls was imported from, Canton in the year 1849, by Capt. D. S. Fuller, of the ship Vancouver. The name "Hong Kong," has been bestowed on them as a convenient appellation to distinguish them from other Chinese fowls. For size and beauty, they equal any other breed of fowls in New England. The portraits at the head of this article were drawn from life—a pair in my possession. I weighed the imported hen, and a cock from her, on the third of April last, and found their weight to be twenty-three pounds and nine ounces. The hen's weight was twelve pounds and one ounce, and the cock weighed eleven and a half pounds. He was only ten months old at the time. The prevailing shade of his plumage is a glossy black on the breast, sides and legs; the hackles, back and rump feathers are a bright red; his tail is a rich, glossy, greenish black

wattles, heavy; eyes, very large; prominent comb, and dark, smooth legs. The hen is a perfect match for the cock in color and general appearance; black, save her neck hackles, which are penciled with red. She is a good layer, and her eggs are quite as large as those of the domestic turkey. I am indebted to Dr. J. C. Bennett, of this place, for this noble pair, as a present. Dr. Elihu Halladay, in a letter to Dr. Bennett, says: "the eggs, as far as I could judge, are fine specimens. The Hong Kong's eggs from your great imported hen, are different from anything I ever saw or heard of being produced by any breed of hens. They have a resemblance to the turkey's egg, except in form, which is quite different. I feel quite as anxious to raise Hong Kongs as Brahma Pootras."

For this hen, and a very excellent cockerel, Dr. Eben Wight, of Boston, the former owner, refused fifty dollars, and was repeatedly offered twenty-five dollars for the hen alone.

The fowls which are delineated at the head of this article, could not be purchased at a similar price.

There are a great many fowls that are called Hong Kongs, with double combs and feathered legs, and of all colors, but all such fowls are a cross breed. It is generally believed that these fowls were produced by a cross in this country. This is a great mistake. In form and color they breed the most perfect of any fowls I have ever seen. They always have large, single combs, dark, smooth legs, with yellow bottoms to their feet. Any one well acquainted with this breed, would know them by their large, dark-grey eye, not running in circles around the eye, as is generally seen in other breeds, but in spots all over the eye, which gives them a very singular look. I have hatched a large number of chickens this season, from them, and have found them to breed perfect in every respect.

C. C. P.

I recently procured a pair of these fine fowls from Mr. Plaisted's stock, and a fine pair of fowls they are. The portraits here presented do not do them justice. They are far superior in form and general appearance to those delineated in the cut. Mr. Plaisted has given them a very fair description. I shall breed them the coming season, and shall then give my views of their merits more in detail, in the Northern Farmer. The premium pair of Hong Kongs at the poultry show in Boston, November, 1852, sold for $40.

Dr. Bennett speaks of these fowls as follows:

"This fowl resembles the Imperial Chinese in almost every respect, except *color*. There is, however, a marked difference in the legs. The Imperial Chinese generally have yellow legs, frequently very heavily feathered, whereas the Hong Kongs usually have dark legs, and almost always smooth. They possess the same excellencies, are equal in size, and are superior in beauty of plumage. The original importation was made from Canton and Shanghae, in the year 1849. The name *Hong*

Kong, has been bestowed on them as a convenient appellation to distinguish them from other Chinese fowls. They are the Mandarin Fowl of China.

"The importer thus describes the pair now referred to:

" 'The cock is one of six fowls of my own importation, direct from *Canton*, early in the present season. His color is quite dark, the prevailing shade of plumage being a rich, glossy, greenish black, on the breast, sides, and legs; the hackles, wings, back, and rump feathers are a bright red; his legs are dark; wattles, heavy; eye, very large; prominent comb, and very short tail. He is a splendid bird, not ten months old. His weight this day is ten and a quarter pounds.

" 'The hen is a perfect match for the cock in color and general appearance—dark plumage, (black, saving her neck-hackles,) of a very fine form, and one of the rarest birds I have ever yet seen. She is also imported directly from Canton, and was sent me by a gentleman fancier, who chanced to see my crower, and who considered him a fitting mate for *such* a fowl. I weighed this hen on the 27th of May—*she drew ten pounds, strong*, though she had just come from the sitting-coop, and was not so heavy by half to three-quarters of a pound, probably, as she will be in fair laying condition. A few of her chickens, hatched this spring, have proved rare specimens, for domestic birds.'

"In size and weight, these fowls are well ranked among the best specimens of their race. Their laying qualities are also equal to the best.

"The hen here described, laid almost daily for six months, when owned by Dr. Wight, and she has, since she came into my possession, laid well. Her eggs are very peculiar.

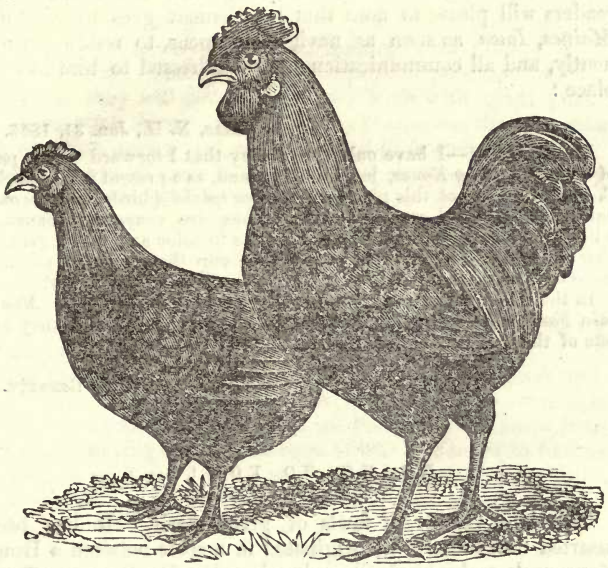
"There are very few of these fowls in this country, owing to the fact that the original cock was slain in battle, soon after his arrival in America. A coop containing Royal Cochins happened to be in such proximity, that the fowls in each, beholding each other, became excited, and burst forth from their prisons and came in conflict.

"The encounter was a severe one, and resulted in the death of *both*. One was killed on the spot, and the other died shortly after."

J. C. B.

The Hong Kong fowl, in my opinion, surpasses any other known breed in New England. For beauty and laying qualities, I am certain they will stand in the foremost ranks. I have tried the different breeds that are now attracting so much attention in this section. Some I have found very good, but concluded on the whole, that many overrated their fowls. A friend, (Dr. J. C. Bennett, Great Falls, N. H.,) sent me a pair of Hong Kongs. I have bred them for two years, and they have far exceeded my expectations. Of twenty-five chickens I have bred this season, not one was imperfect. They bred to the feather, and resemble the old fowl perfectly. I do not hesitate in saying, the Hong Kongs are THE FOWLS.

H. H. HUNTRESS,
Biddeford, Me.



ENGLISH HONG KONG FOWLS.

Since the foregoing matter was prepared on Hong Kong fowls, C. C. Plaisted, Esq., of Great Falls, N. H., has imported some very choice stock of this breed, from England, a pair of which the above cut represents, and which I have received from Mr. Plaisted. They cost $35 in England. These fowls possess all the main characteristics of those I received from H. H. Huntress, Esq., of Biddeford, Me., whose fowls have been so much admired; but they are larger and more sinewy; legs, large and strong—the real English points of a choice fowl. The color of the cock is a chesnut-color, intermixed with darker shades. The pullet is nearly black, rather more so than our American bred Hong Kongs. There has been no cross in the blood of this breed of fowls, and they will breed to the feather. The above pair, when mature, will probably weigh about twenty-one pounds, and they are truly a magnificent breed. I learn that Mr. Plaisted will breed extensively from his stock of Hong Kongs.

The following letter was received with the fowls. My readers will please to note that Dr. Bennett goes to *Fort des Moines, Iowa*, as soon as navigation opens, to reside permanently, and all communications to be addressed to him at that place:

GREAT FALLS, N. H., Jan. 31, 1853.

Friend Miner,—I have only time to say that I forward you a pair of *Imported Hong Kongs*, just from England, as a present from Charles C. Plaisted, Esq., of this place. They are *splendid* birds, and *the only* pair ever *imported* FROM ENGLAND. They are PERFECTLY IDENTICAL with Mr. Plaisted's stock he had of me, as to color and every general characteristic. I took them out of the coop they came in, as they were too much cramped for room, and are suffering for liberty.

In the other end of the coop, I send you three *Wild Indian Mountain Fowls*, a cock, (yellowish,) and two hens, (black,) and they are one of the best breeds *in the world.*

Yours truly,

J. C. BENNETT.

HOANG HO FOWLS.

This is a variety of fowls of great merit. It has been asserted that these fowls originated in a *cross* between a Hong Kong cock, and a black Shanghae hen, but Dr. Bennett affirms that he imported them, and that they do not possess a particle of Hong Kong or Shanghae blood. Be that as it may, they are a fine fowl. They may be described as follows: Cocks, a bright chestnut color; short legs, sometimes feathered, and frequently smooth; head, erect; comb, single and serrated; eye, large, and very dark, with little or no visible iris; weight of best samples at two years old, *twelve* pounds; a peculiar crow, advancing in the act, and continuing the sound longer than is natural in other fowls.

The pullets are uniformly either a rich, glossy black—not a perfect *jet*—with a slight penciling of chestnut neck hackles, or a variegated, penciled brown; form, that of the best modeled Shanghaes; compact, short legs, dark color, feathered generally, but not always, short tail; eye dark, of a *snaky* look, with no perceptible iris (outer ring usually red,) at a few feet distance. The pullets are larger, in proportion to cocks generally, than other breeds, frequently drawing *ten* pounds. I have six pullets of this breed, that were hatched in June last,

now eight months old, that average about *eight* pounds each, and the old cock weighs only *eleven* pounds. They equal the *best* Shanghaes for laying, seldom missing a day, unless it be between litters. These fowls have a peculiar penchant for fresh meat, and they will devour mice and birds with great gusto, and even *catch* them. A pullet in my possession, three months old, caught a young bird, and devoured it, feathers and all.

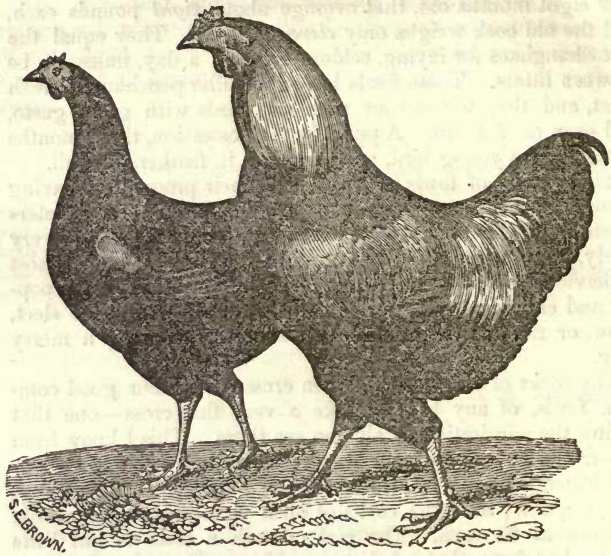
This variety of fowls is very hardy, their progenitors having come from a severe climate, and they stand our severe winters much better than our native fowls. The chicks are also very hardy, and are protected by a coat of fur while young, almost impervious to water; and while our common breeds are drooping and chilled, the Hoang Ho chicks run about in the sleet, snow, or rain, as happy as in midsummer, chirping a merry song.

The cocks of this variety, when crossed with our good common fowls, of any breed, make a very fine cross—one that excites the admiration of all who see them. This I know from experience, having disposed of eggs of this half breed to various gentlemen, who are rapturous in the praise of them, without an exception; and the cocks of such crosses have been sold as high as $5 each. The *size* of such a cross is but little diminished from that of the pure Hoang Hos, and the fowls are *beautiful*, surpassing the parentage in all cases. The crossed cocks are generally of the same bright chestnut color of the Hoang Ho cocks, and much exceed them in their graceful proportions. Some of the pullets resemble the pure fowls so much, as not to be distinguished, except by one well acquainted with them.

The other, and general characteristics of the Hoang Ho fowls, are similar to our best Asiatic breeds. They are confined by fences *three* feet high. I have furnished no portraits of them in consequence of a press of other business, but shall have them executed at the earliest period, for insertion in the "Farmer."

There are but three or four individuals in the United States, who have this breed at present. Wm. O. Leslie, Esq., of Pa., writes me under date of Jan. 20th, 1853, as follows:

"In your editorials on Poultry, you have thus far overlooked the great *Hoang Hos*, a breed which I consider the largest of any we have. I have a pullet a little over six months old, which weighs six pounds *full*. She lays almost daily. She is from Dr. Bennett's stock."



BLACK CHINA FOWLS.

The above cut represents a somewhat rare, but very excellent description of fowls, which have been bred in Norfolk county, Massachusetts.

The fowls from which the Black China breed had its origin, were imported into this country in the spring of 1848, in the ship *Vancouver*, from China, and came into the possession of Dr. Eben Wight, of Dedham, Mass. At the time he received them, the hen weighed nine pounds. She ultimately proved to be a good layer, and, as her form became maturely developed, showed points which denoted the best requirements of the class to which she belonged. She was short in the legs—very much so; round and full in the body and breast; the plumage of the body dark green, with yellow hackles on a black ground. The chicks of the first brood were all males—the number being six. At six months old, the heaviest of this brood weighed ten and a half pounds, and the lightest one ten and a quarter pounds. The color of the males is black, with reddish, or gold-colored neck and back feathers. They stand erect, and are majestic in their demeanor. The comb and wattles of the stock from those originally imported, are very small, a feature that is not found in any other variety of *Black China* fowls. The combs, on both cocks and hens, are single in all pure specimens, and, on no account, can they be considered large; if otherwise, the purity of the fowl may be

impeachable. What the weight of the male member of the originally imported pair was, I cannot state; but, at ten months old, the produce above specified, weighed—the heaviest of the six—twelve and a half pounds; the others were little inferior to him in weight. Their plumage was uniform with their parentage—a distinction that has been kept up by every brood hatched from the same stock. I speak within the mark, when I say, that the males of this breed, one year old, will weigh from nine to ten pounds each, and the hens from seven to eight pounds. The hen originally imported, a few weeks ago weighed twelve and a half pounds, and is, perhaps, the weightiest fowl of her class in the Union. The Black China fowls are excellent layers, as I have very good reason to know. The old hen referred to, laid 163 eggs in 169 days, and her being kept separate from all others during that period, and laying apart, left me no room to question the number of eggs produced.

In every respect, whether for laying properties, or as a table fowl, I know of no description more eligible than the Black Chinas. They are hardy and healthy in this northern latitude, and I have no doubt would attain to a much greater weight under a more mild climate, south or west. In productive qualities, the Black Chinas, could not improve anywhere, south or west, so as to eclipse their reputation here.

The cut I send you, (that at the head of this article,) is a very good representation of my fowls, and illustrates their proportions in a very correct manner.

I am yours, &c.,

A. White.

East Randolph, Mass., 13th Dec., 1852.

Mr. White gives us a pretty good account of his fowls in regard to *weight* and *laying* qualities, which cannot be true of the breed generally; yet I have no reason to doubt his word in his own particular case. What the difference is between the "Black China" fowls, and the black *Shanghaes*, I am unable to understand. Both are from *China*, and should go by one and the same name. I am decidedly opposed to a useless multiplication of *names*, when there is no good reason for them, and the public should set their faces against such things; if not, every new importation, and every new *cross*, will be dubbed a new name, till we shall have become bewildered with the endless varieties that will be introduced. The following is from D. P. Newell, Esq., of Rochester, who gives this breed the name of "*Canton*" fowl:

"The Cantons were imported from China, and are a large, glossy, black fowl, lively and spirited in appearance, with short legs, and large, plump bodies. They were much admired at the late State Fair at Utica, and they are a great acquisition to a poultry yard. For laying, they will compare favorably with any other fowl that I ever kept. They lay a large white egg, much larger than the eggs of Co-

chin Chinas, or Shanghaes. They are hardy, and their young are strong and vigorous, and easily reared. Those who fancy a black fowl, cannot do better than to obtain the *Cantons*, for they are a better and more profitable fowl than the black Spanish, black Shanghae, or great Java fowls. They mature young, and have most of the good qualities of the Dorking fowl."

GREAT JAVA FOWL.

This is a breed similar in some respects to the Black China fowls. They were introduced into this country some years previous to the advent of the majority of the Asiatic fowls, and at the time, considerable noise was made in regard to their qualities, but little or nothing is now said about them. I kept them on Long Island, some years ago, but did not like them. They have no merit except *size*. Dr. Bennett, in his Treatise on Poultry, says:

"These, like all other pure Java fowls, are of a black, or dark auburn color, with very large black legs, single comb and wattles. They are good layers, and their eggs are very large and well-flavored. Their gait is slow and majestic. They are, in fact, amongst the most valuable fowls in the country, and are frequently described in the books as "Spanish fowls," than which nothing is more erroneous. They are as distinctly an original breed as the pure blooded Great Malay, and possess about the same qualities as to excellence, but falling rather short as to beauty. This, however, is a matter of taste, and some consider the pure Java superior to all other large fowls, so far as beauty is concerned. Their plumage is decidedly rich."

GREAT MALAY FOWL.

This breed, as well as the Great Javas, are well represented by the portraits of *Black China* fowls, previously shown in this work. The Great Malays were brought originally from the peninsula of that name, at the southern extremity of Asia. Richardson says:

"The Malay fowl stands very high on the legs, is long-necked, serpent-headed, and is in color, usually, a dark brown, streaked with yellow; sometimes, however, with white. His form and appearance are grand and striking in the extreme, and he is no small embellishment to the poultry yard. This fowl is also frequently, but erroneously, called the *Chittagong*. The Malay fowls, however, that were originally imported, were by no means such birds as I could recommend to the notice of the breeder, their size possessing too much offal, as neck, legs, and thighs, and the flesh being dark-colored and oily."

It is useless to give further details of these fowls, as they are not popular, and the less we have to do with them the better, when other breeds of much more value are within our reach, at very moderate prices. It appears that a large *red* fowl is called "Malay," at the south, as will be seen by the following extract:

The Malays do very well in this climate, (Ga.); lay large eggs, and about fifteen at a litter; may easily be prevented from sitting, and are otherwise easily managed. The chickens are strong when hatched, grow fast, and feather sooner than most of the large birds; color, red.

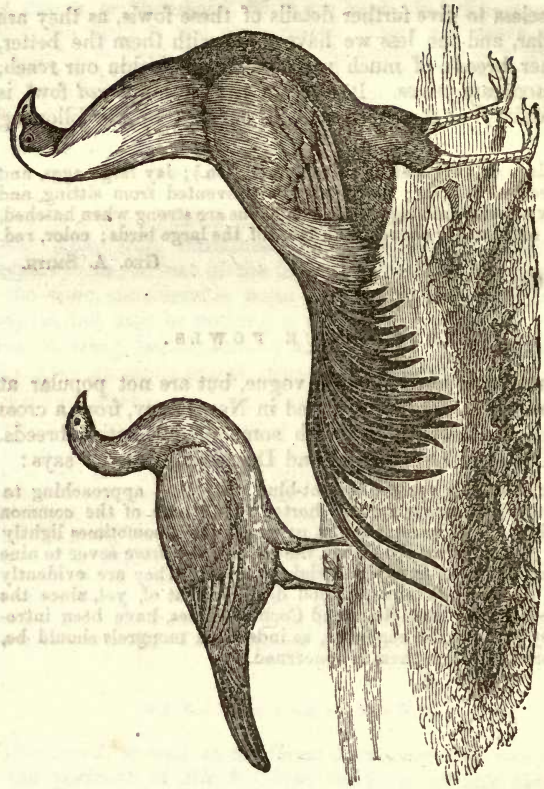
GEO. A. SMITH.

Macon, Ga.

JERSEY BLUE FOWLS.

This breed was once much in vogue, but are not popular at the present time. They originated in New Jersey, from a cross of some of the Great Malay with some of our native breeds. Dr. Kerr, in his "Ornamental and Domestic Poultry," says:

"The color of this variety is light-blue, sometimes approaching to dun; the tail and wings rather shorter than those of the common fowl; its legs are of various colors, generally dark, sometimes lightly feathered. Of superior specimens, the cocks weigh from seven to nine pounds, and the hens from six to eight pounds. They are evidently mongrels; and though once a good deal thought of, yet, since the purer breeds, as the Shanghaes and Cochin Chinas, have been introduced, they begin to be neglected, as indeed all mongrels should be, so far as breeding from them is concerned."



SUMATRA PHEASANT GAME FOWLS.

SUMATRA PHEASANT GAME FOWLS.

I now introduce the most celebrated *Game* fowls known. I am not in favor of cock-fighting, by any means; but as I have undertaken to furnish a truthful history of the gallinaceous tribes—at least, those of the most important and valuable breeds, I should fail to do justice to my subject, if I omitted the Games. In some sections of our country, the rearing of fowls for the "pit" is quite extensive, especially at the south; and the repugnance of the people in those sections to the prac-

tice of pitting them, is much less than at the north. The indomitable perseverance and courage of the Sumatra Pheasant Games, is worthy our admiration. They will fight as long as enough of their body hangs together to retain the vital spark, and they yield to nothing but death. Dr. Bennett does not overrate them, as I have much corroborative evidence of their enduring powers and unflinching courage when pitted, and I have had personal experience of their courage, having procured a pair from Dr. Bennett's stock. The cock in my possession has whipped every other rooster I own, and *without spurs*, being too young to have them grown, if this breed does ever have them, which I think doubtful, from present appearances. They are probably pitted with steel gafts, usually. No other fowl can compare with them in beauty of plumage—that beautiful green metalic lustre for which they are noted, and with which they are invariably bred by Dr. Bennett. The portraits here given, are true to life. The following is Dr. Bennett's description of them. Dr. B. was one of the first breeders, and the principle breeder of these Games in this country:

These fowls are called "Pheasants" by the natives of Sumatra, from their strong resemblance to that bird in the length of their tail, and the manner of carrying it, which is horizontal, or in a line with their body, and not erect, like other Games. The magnificent plume-feathers of the cock's tail frequently sweep the ground, and the tail of the hen is fan-shaped. The cervical contour, likewise, strikingly resembles that of the wild pheasant, and the general aspect of the Sumatra Pheasant Game is symmetrical and unique in the extreme. In this country we adopt the name of "Pheasant" Game, to designate this particular breed, and to distinguish it from another excellent breed of Games, imported from Sumatra by Capt. Silver, and known as "Silver Games," but which are designated "Sumatra Games," in the late report of the New England Poultry Society. These "Sumatra Games" are larger, and carry their tail decidedly more erect than the "Sumatra Pheasant Games," and the two breeds differ materially in general contour and brilliancy of plumage, though both breeds are GAME to the death.

The Sumatra Pheasant Games may be thus described: Head, small, with a powerful beak; eyes, lustrous, quick, and fiery; the comb is what is known to cockers as a "pea-comb," from its resemblance to a pea-blossom; that is, it is a small, serrated comb, studded upon either side by a smaller comb, giving it the appearance of three combs; but some of this breed have single combs; wattles, small, with a very small, dew-lap; hackles of the neck and loins, very long and brilliant; tail, long and drooping, or horizontal, with abundant plume-feathers, sweeping the ground; body, slim, and very symmetrical; legs, sinewy, with a powerful and muscular thigh; bottom of the feet and skin of the body, of a bright yellow; color of plumage, variable,

but I generally prefer to breed the black, or very dark, as a matter of fancy.

The Sumatra Pheasant Games are among the very finest of the Wild Indian bloods, and compare favorably with any of the game race. Like all well bred Games, they never cringe—they never cower before the steel, nor quail at the terrors of the bloody pit. They were imported into Boston, from the island of Sumatra, by Mr. J. A. C. Butters and Mr. Joseph Muncreeff, and closely resemble the Bengal Games in general contour, with the exception of the length of the neck, which is usually shorter. The small pea-comb and tiny wattles of this breed of Games, require but little trimming to fit them for the pit.

The males have a small dew-lap, like the Wild Indian Mountain Fowl, but never have the muffler which is always to be found in that unique bird. They are fast and indomitable fighters, and their other qualities are the same as other high bred Games. Their plumage is usually brilliant, and their symmetry unsurpassed; in fact, I should not consider my Game stock complete without the beautiful Sumatras.

Mr. J. A. C. Butters, the importer, from whom I obtained my stock, in a letter to the writer, of March 20th, 1851, observes:

"As to the history of the Sumatra Pheasant Games, I can only say—I received two hens and one cock of this breed, direct from Anger's Point, Island of Sumatra, India, April, 1847. These fowls are found there in flocks of twenty or more, and fly across from the Island of Sumatra to the Island of Java; the natives call them *Pheasants*, and are very choice of those they capture and breed. They are kept almost exclusively for fighting there. The natives get them very domestic. I have spent considerable time in finding some history of them in print, but have not, as they are distinctly from the *Bankiva cock*, that being quite small, and carries the tail erect, like the Sea-bright Bantam. There is the skin of one of the same at Washington, D. C., in the collection of the U. S. Exploring Expedition. I took a drawing of it last fall, when there—it is the same fowl. It was in a cabinet of birds from the East Indies. At that time they were numbered, but no account had been then printed. These fowls have proved to be most exeellent layers. I do not exaggerate when I say that they will lay a greater weight of eggs than any other breed, in the same time, I say weight, because there is so much said about the large size of the Cochin Chinas, Shanghaes, &c., &c. The Game eggs appear small, but, like the fowl, are of extra weight; the flesh is unsurpassed by any domestic breed; they are small eaters; very quiet when acquainted with each other, and do not quarrel as much as DUNG-HILLS, but when opposed by a stranger, their tenacity of purpose and courage, is unequalled by any bird. They do not come to maturity before the end of a year. If you will examine the spur of those sent, you will see that it is not set firm. They ought never to strike a blow until the spur is firmly set to the leg. I have but one breed of fowls, and have had no other for nearly four years; I have bred GAME FOWLS for over eight years, (for sportsmen mostly.) The superiority of the Sumatra over all other Game breeds, is the natural strength, compactness of body and feathers, and unusual intelligence, and natural

willingness to be handled, and when trained, are perfectly at home in any place. They can be made Generals in a short time. The Java Games are too slow and lack courage, as I have seen a number start at the first puncture of the STEEL. Sportsmen have to come for Sumatra Pheasant Games on all important occasions."

Game eggs are not only of extra weight, as Mr. Butters truly remarks, but they are decidedly richer than any other eggs. One Game egg is worth two common eggs of the same size, either for eating or culinary purposes—so far do the Game eggs excel all others, both as to flavor and nutritious qualities. The specific gravity of an egg, as well as a fowl, determines its relative qualities.

No better fowls, either for the "spit," or the "pit," than the Sumatra Pheasant Games, are to be found. A *larger* breed of Games is produced by crossing the Sumatra Pheasant Game cock, with the Wild Indian Game hen, or *vice versa*. They are called, and very appropriately, "The Game Cock of the Wilderness," and are of exquisite beauty and indomitable courage.

With regard to the Java Games, I must beg leave to differ from my friend Butters. The PURE Java Games, are likewise "Pheasant" Games, having a head and tail like the Sumatras, and only differ in size and color. The Javas, as well as the Sumatras, are fast and stalwort fighters—in fact, the Javas are only a VARIETY of the Sumatras —the BREED is the same.

JOHN C. BENNETT.

Fort des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa.

The following letter is from Geo. A. Smith, Esq., of Geo., one of the most extensive fowl fanciers of the South:

———, Geo., April 19, 1852.

I hope you will not think me fickle when I tell you that I recant my former opinion in regard to the fighting qualities of the Sumatra Pheasant Games. I saw my blue cock tried, and pass through the 'fiery ordeal' that happens to the lot of few cocks to pass through. He fought a cock that I will not say was the best in Georgia, but he was more than an average, and one that could make a good fight any time. He was two and a half years old, and in good fighting order, and was a very fast fighter. The Sumatra got a bad cut on the hip before they had exchanged a half-dozen blows, which made him stagger, and he could not stand firm on his feet. The next cut was in the wing, that did not injure him much. The next was in the neck, but not very deep. The next in the body. All this time his antagonist had not received a scratch, and was thumping him away on all sides, and at every pass doing the Sumatra some damage, which now showed signs of being worsted, and when pitted, would make an attempt to get to the other cock, and fall. The Georgia cock would then go and stand upon him—sometimes on his neck, for five minutes at a time. The Sumatra would get from under him, exchange a few blows, then fall again. At this crisis the Sumatra got a cut at the lower edge of the right eye, and ranging towards the neck. It was with a 3¼ gaff, and went more than half the length in, and being so fast that the point bent in pulling it out. I thought it was all over with him, but

he then appeared to fight better, and with more determination than before. He now received a cut in his left wing, entering the first joint, and ranging up towards the butt, cutting the large artery, I presume, from the quantity of blood that flowed. The next cut was in the back part of the head, ranging down. He received several other cuts in the neck, but not very deep. He was now blind in the right eye, lame in one hip, and the blood dripping from him. His left eye was half closed, and he could scarcely see his opponent, but was eager to get at him. The Georgia cock now began to tire, but kept fighting. The Sumatra finally got to him, and gave him a desperate blow, cutting him in the breast. The gaff did not hang, and he was knocked three feet. He was brought to the pit again, and the Sumatra cut him through the right eye and into the head, which closed the battle. The cock died in a short time. The Sumatra was completely cut up, and I never before saw a cock stand one-half the cutting and fatigue that he did.

It appears that the Sumatra Pheasant *hens* are as pugnacious as the cocks. Mr. J. A. C. Butters, the original importer of this breed, in speaking of one of them sold to Dr. Bennett, says:

"I would fight her with gaffs against any hen in the world of her own weight. She never, to my knowledge, was whipped but once, and then by her mother. On one occasion, she fought her way through a flock of thirty Cochins and Shanghaes, whipping both cocks and hens."

The following extracts from the most distinguished fowl fanciers in this country, will give further proofs of the estimation in which they are held:

PROVIDENCE, Oct. 8th, 1852.

Friend Bennett,—The Sumatra Games came safe to hand, and I am compelled to say, that I never saw such beautiful and ornamental Game fowls, and I think I have seen nearly all varieties. That splendid, rich, dark, green bronze color, I never saw on any fowl before. No amateur ought to be without those truly splendid and ornamental birds. For my taste, they cast all other Games, for beauty of plumage, far in the shade. If you can spare me another pullet I shall be pleased.

Yours truly, JOHN GILES.

These, I think, are among the best of all the Games, for fighting purposes. They have strength, activity, fleetness, perseverance, and endurance; are also desperate, as no cutting from a gaff will make them flinch. They are kind to human species, but the death to all fowl kind. Cocks, hens and chicks, all fight. I think them the handsomest of all the fowl kind. They have a wild look, brilliant plumage, and the neatest build imaginable. The hens are blue, with bills and legs the same color as the cocks. Are an excellent fowl for the table, their flesh being delicately white. Their laying qualities are good, and their sitting and nursing, faultless. Their eggs, though small, are as *heavy* as those of the larger kinds of hens. The shell is

mahogany color. They are restless, and cannot be confined, and can out-scratch any fowl I ever saw. They came from Angier Point, Sumatra—the imported ones being from wild ones, caught in the woods. I think they will not degenerate by in-and-in breeding. In weight, they vary from four and a half to six pounds, and are so compactly built, as to deceive any one not acquainted with their make.

GEO. A. SMITH.

The peculiarities of Sumatra Game fowls, are as follows: They have no *wattles*, and scarcely any comb, and require little or no trimming, to fit them for the pit. The cock in my yard, which is now six months old, stands and carries himself loftier than most chickens at eighteen months old, all the time watching, as if alarmed. His general appearance is wild. The hen, (an imported one,) is a perfect beauty. All who have seen the Sumatra Games, consider them the handsomest and most desirable ones they have ever seen.

As to their laying qualities, I would say—the very day I received the hen, July 3d, she began to lay, and continued, until she had laid twenty eggs, without missing a day; I then allowed her to sit. She raised me eleven chickens, and proved herself a good sitter and nurse. As fighters, they stand unrivaled, allowing themselves, (as I am credibly informed,) to be cut in pieces, without yielding. They are also fast fighters.

ALBERTUS WELCH.

———, Penn.

I received a pair of Sumatra Pheasant Game fowls, from Dr. Bennett, both young and promising, which, for symmetry of form and brilliancy of plumage, cannot be surpassed. The color of a dark, glossy green; the feathers on the neck of the pullet, of a bronze hue; their eyes, remarkably brilliant and piercing; necks, long and serpentine; comb, serrated, and scarcely any wattles; legs and bills, black; body, firm and compact. The carriage of mine is noble and majestic. I have found them to be very small eaters, and much attached to each other, but on the introduction of a strange cock into their yard, they will attack and fight fowls thrice their size, and weight. I do not allow mine to fight, however, as they are too young. I am much pleased with them, and would not part with them for any consideration.

JOHN N. A. KOBB.

———, Penn.

The principal breeders of the Sumatra Pheasant Game fowls in this country, at present, are J. C. Bennett, Fort des Moines, Iowa, Richard Blaisdell, Esq., Great Falls, N. H., and myself.

SUMATRA GAMES.

SUMATRA GAMES.

This is a breed much resembling the Sumatra *Pheasant* Games, yet having distinct characteristics, and known simply as the "Sumatra Games," without the term "*Pheasant*." They are not considered equal in the qualities that constitute a good Game fowl, to the Sumatra Pheasant Games. The following description of them, by Mr. S. B. Morse, Jr., is taken from the "*New England Farmer:*"

"The progenitors of this race of fowls were, several years since, brought from the Island of Sumatra. The utmost care has been used to prevent the possibility of a cross in this stock.

This breed of Game fowls is, in my opinion, equal, if not superior

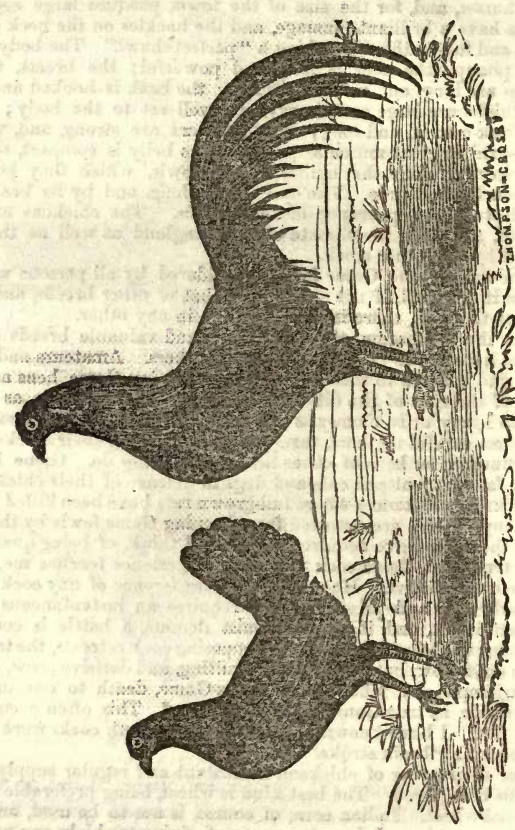
to any other in the New England States. The hens are good sitters and nurses, and, for the size of the fowls, produce large eggs. The cocks have a brilliant plumage, and the hackles on the neck are very long and full-feathered, making a "perfect shawl." The body is round and plump; the neck is long and powerful; the breast, full; the wings are long, and cover the thighs; the beak is hooked and stout; the thighs are large and sinewy, and well set to the body; the legs are dark-colored and long; and the claws are strong, and, with the legs, exhibit great muscular power. The belly is compact, so as not to interfere with the agility of the fowls, which they possess to a remarkable degree. The tail is very long, and by its beauty adds much to the appearance of these birds. The chickens are easily reared, and bear the climate of New England as well as those produced by any other stock.

The flesh of the Game fowl is considered by all persons who have eaten it, as equal, if not superior, to that of other breeds, and, for the size of the fowl, there is less offal than in any other.

For the incubation of eggs of rare and valuable breeds of fowls, Game hens are to be preferred to all others. Amateurs and fanciers will find it much to their advantage to employ Game hens as incubators of the eggs of the different breeds of Bantam fowls, as they are not so heavy or so clumsy as to break the eggs, and, at the same time, are most careful mothers, rarely or never injuring their chicks by their impetuosity, as hens of other breeds sometimes do. Game hens will most fearlessly attack cats and dogs in defence of their chicks; and I have known instances where full-grown rats have been killed by them.

Many persons are deterred from keeping Game fowls by the reputation the cocks have acquired, unjustly, I think, of being quarrelsome. The true bred Game cock is not, my experience teaches me, quarrelsome or vindictive. He resents the interference of any cock with his vested rights and privileges, and requires an instantaneous apology for an insult, and, if his antagonist demurs, a battle is commenced without the least delay. If the opposing cock retreats, the true Game does not follow, but with a loud, exulting, and derisive crow, expresses his triumph; but when Game meets Game, death to one or both is inevitable, as true Game "never retreats." This often occurs at the first flirt. I have known an instance where both cocks were instantly killed by a "brain stroke."

For the rearing of chickens, a constant and regular supply of small grains is required. The best kind is wheat, being preferable to barley or buckwheat. Indian corn, of course, is not to be used, on account of its great size. I do not approve of giving to chicks any moist food, particularly Indian meal, as it will ferment in a short time, and become sour. Chicks should not be compelled to fast. Their crops are small, and the power of digestion is so great, that, if the food is not constantly within their reach, they are soon exhausted by the growth of feathers and bone, lose their strength, and death is the result. I have used the "screenings" of wheat for feeding chicks, and find them quite as good as wheat, although costing much less.



SUMATRA EBON GAME FOWLS.

SUMATRA EBON GAMES.

The Sumatra *Ebon* Game fowls are very nearly allied to the *Pheasant* Games, I presume, from the description given; and what the particular difference is, I leave for Dr. Bennett to explain.

These celebrated Games being in possession of Dr. Bennett only, in this country, we must, of course, look entirely to him for their history, not being described in any of the works on

poultry, either in the United States or in Europe. Cavillers may say, that the descriptions often given of particular breeds of fowls, are mere *advertisements* of them got up to *sell* them. Very well, suppose that they are. How are we to get descriptions of fowls unless we get them from those who have bred them? Every work on poultry hitherto published, is filled with descriptions by interested parties, in a great degree; yet it should be the duty of authors to state their own views and opinions, when they are in contradiction to the opinions and descriptions furnished for their works, and I shall do so. The most authentic information an author can produce, is the opinions of various parties—not exclusively his own, however well informed or experienced he may be. It is presumed that gentlemen of reputation and honor will adhere to the truth, giving the bright side, of course, being interested, and the public must be the *jury* to give a verdict after hearing the testimony.

As to my friend, Dr. Bennett, he is an enthusiastic admirer of the feathered tribes. Breeding them is his element, and he is just the man to detect their faults, and to discover their good qualities. He may use superlatives, on some occasions, rather freely, but not for the purpose of *gain*, for the Doctor does not breed fowls for profit—for filthy lucre; it is a passion with him; and when he has a fine breed, he oftener presents them to his friends than sells them to his customers, and if the truth were known, we believe he has given away more valuable fowls within the last five years, than all other fanciers in the United States together.

Hear what he says of these Games:

The portrait at the head of this article, was delineated and engraved by J. C. Thompson, Jr., of Providence, R. I., and is an accurate likeness.

These fowls were imported direct from the Island of Sumatra, and are materially different from any other variety of Game fowl ever introduced into this country.

The Sumatra Ebon Games answer to the following description: Head, very broad, with a powerful beak; eyes, small, fiery, and snaky, with a red iris, and jet black pupil; comb, very large, single, deeply serrated, and erect, extending much farther back on the head than that of the Pheasant Games, and much resembling that of the Black Spanish; wattles, large and pendulous; hackles of the loins and neck, very long, and exceedingly brittle; tail, very long and flowing, with abundant plume and sickle feathers sweeping the ground, and in this respect more closely resembling the Bird of Paradise than any other of the gallinaceous race; body, compact, and unusually symmetrical; color, black, or a greenish black, of a metal luster; legs,

sinewy, with a powerful thigh, like the Pheasant Games, and frequently a pea comb, like other well bred Games. In further describing these rare birds, I will introduce some extracts from letters, and other notices.

Dr. Eben Wight writes me as follows:

"Boston, Mass., April 30, 1852.

"*Dear Doct.*,—I have been down to the ship Propontis, Lewis Wharf, and have seen the Sumatra Ebon Game fowls. Captain Barstow, brother to the one who wrote you, says he took about fifty cocks on board at starting, and always kept the one that beat, till all are dead except this fellow; he finished, or nearly finished, all of them, when they were handed over to the cook. He was regularly gaffed for battle. The cock and hen are both quite young. Plumage of the cock, dark-red hackles, and a few dark-red feathers over the back; body, black, or greenish black; tail feathers, very long and green; legs, dark. The hen is black, and of good plumage, with dark legs.

"In haste, truly yours, E. Wight."

Mr. Barstow, brother of the Captain, says:

Boston, May 1st, 1852.

"*Dr. Bennett*,—Dr. Eben Wight will give you a description of the Games, which he can do better than myself.

"They were imported in the ship Propontis, Captain Barstow, which arrived last week, and were bought at the west coast of Sumatra, by the Captain.

"There cannot be any doubt as to the breed of the fowls, as they were hatched on the coast, bought there by the present owner, and brought from there in the ship Propontis, from which they were taken this morning, by Wentworth's Express, for you.

"Yours, &c., Geo. T. Barstow."

Mr. Balch writes as follows:

"Dedham, Mass., July 6, 1852.

"J. C. Bennett, M. D.—*Dear Sir:* My present engagements are such that it is impossible for me to give you a detailed account of the Game fowls you purchased of Captain Barstow. I saw them on board the ship Propontis, and offered a large price for them, but was informed that they were under refusal for you; he, therefore, could not part with them till he should hear from you.

"From the history my friend, Captain Barstow, gave me of the birds, I am inclined to think they are the best Games imported for many a day.

"I rather rejoice that you were the successful purchaser, for they will now be fully distributed. Had I been so fortunate as to have secured them, I should have presented them to a friend at the South, where I am sure they would have out-shone any they have.

"Yours, truly, B. W. Balch.

The Great Falls Journal, of May 6th, in speaking of the Sumatra Ebon Game fowl, observes:

"We have this week been shown a pair of these fowls, which were brought direct from the Island of Sumatra, India, in the ship Propontis, Captain Barstow, and were purchased by Dr. J. C. Bennett, at a great price. The plumage of these fowls is elegant, that of the cock being a greenish black, with long, green tail feathers, and a few dark red feathers over the back. The tail feathers of this bird now drag upon the ground when he stands erect, notwithstanding he has undergone the hardships of a seven months' voyage, which is every way calculated to strip him of his plumage. He, according to the testimony of the Captain, actually fought and killed fifty cocks while on his passage from Sumatra to Boston. He was regularly gaffed for the battle, and always cut down his antagonist, though many a victory was hardly contested at the point of the steel. The hen is of good plumage, and has laid from the time of her embarkation at Sumatra, up to the present, with short intervals. These birds are said, by excellent judges, to be the 'FASTEST' Game fowls now known, and evidently STAND AT THE HEAD OF THE GAME RACE as to beauty, strength, power of endurance, prowess, and speed. They never prove craven, or cower at the steel cut of the enemy."

The editor of the New England Cultivator, in an article in that paper, says:

"We had an opportunity, a few days since, to examine the fine *Game* birds of Dr. J. C. Bennett, of Great Falls, N. H., and we were highly pleased with his stock, which is the choicest, probably, in its way, now to be found in the Northern States.

"Dr. B. is an enthusiastic fancier, and has bred his fowls, experimentally and scientifically, for several years. He has appended some *names* to his birds, for the purpose of distinguishing one importation from another, which we do not fancy altogether; but that he has some superb specimens of Game fowls, there is *no* question.

"His Sumatra Games—comprising the 'Pheasant' Game, and the 'Ebon' Game—are among the most graceful and beautiful of all the domestic fowls we ever yet saw, and we do not doubt that they are *all* that they are represented. He claims that they are 'fast' fighters, and of sure endurance and bottom.

"Two old breeders (imported,) that he showed us, were [illegible] fine and promise to be a superb variety—of dark, rich plum[illegible], carriage, large armed, and exceedingly erect and spirited.

"Dr. B. has bred the Games very extensively during the last and present season, and our Southern friends who desire such birds for 'pit or spit,' can obtain choice ones on application as above."

If my friend will inform me how to distinguish one breed from another, (not one *importation* from another,) without "*names*," I will be under many obligations. I do not wish to multiply "*names*," but when new breeds are imported, they *must be* NAMED, or they cannot be *identified* with sufficient precision.

The opinion of such men as Dr. Wight and Mr. Balch, is always entitled to respectful consideration, for though they may occasionally err in judgment, like other men, yet it is admitted on all hands they are able, competent, and most excellent judges.

The Ebon Games are called by the natives of Sumatra, "Malay Games," the best samples of which are found at Palembang, Padang, and Bencoolen; likewise, at Samarang and Bally, in Java; and Singapore, in Malacca.

The cross between the Sumatra Ebon Games, and the Sumatra Pheasant Games, is beautiful in the extreme; and either of the Sumatra breeds—the Pheasant or the Ebon—cross admirably with the English, Irish, or Chinese Games, adding greatly to the beauty and strength of the three latter breeds, and to the size of the two former.

As the "Siamese Penciled Games" are perfectly represented by the above engraving of the Sumatra Ebon Games, and differ from them only in color of plumage and size of body and comb, it is deemed more appropriate to describe them here. The Siamese Penciled Games are most beautifully penciled in every feather, as if with the most exquisite touch of a master painter. The coloring is equal to the "Pintado" or Guinea fowl, each feather vieing with the others in the surpassing beauty of its tints; and this breed of Games might with great propriety be called the "gallinaceous Pintado," for it is really such.

The Siamese Penciled Game cock is from a pound to a pound and a half heavier than the Sumatra Ebon Game cock, and has a much smaller comb; in all other respects, excepting color, they exactly resemble each other.

These fowls are obtained at Concoa and Convot, on the Gulf of Siam, and are highly valued for their beauty and intrinsic worth.

I should not consider my Game stock complete without this valuable and unique breed. As yet, there are but few in the country.

J. C. Bennett.

JAVA PHEASANT GAMES.

The best stock of these beautiful Game birds was imported by Capt. Palmer. One of the imported cocks was of a silver-grey color, with white legs, and weighed between eight and nine pounds; the other imported cock was of a blood-red color, with yellow legs, and weighed between seven and eight pounds. Some of the hens were speckled, others of a quail-color, or exquisitely penciled, like the Imperial Chinese fowls of the 1848 importation; and others were blue, and some of a dun color. They have the pea-comb, and in general aspect, exactly resemble the Sumatra Pheasant Games, and are well represented by the same engraving. No Game fowls in this country were able to stand before these two imported Java cocks—fast, wary and unyielding; the longer they fought, the better they fought, and with constantly increasing ferocity. My stock is from both of the above named imported cocks, and the imported hens, procured for me by Solomon H. Austin, Esq., from whom I have the foregoing facts. Mr. Austin is an acquaintance of Capt. Palmer's, and was enabled to obtain *the best* of this blood for me.

In New England we were never able to obtain fowls of the *size* or

weight of the imported stock, in consequence of the rigor of the climate, but at Fort des Moines, Iowa, I hope to get the *size*, as well as the *courage*, and I am positive it can be done in the balmy climate of the South. I shall take the first opportunity to supply my friend T. B. Miner, Esq., of Clinton, N. Y., with some of the best of this stock to add to his most magnificent collection of the gallinaceous race.

The hucksters of Boston have injured the reputation of these superb Games, in some sections, by palming off half-bloods for the genuine stock; but the pure bloods never fail to give perfect satisfaction, both as to beauty of plumage and stalwart Game qualities. They are equal to any Games in the world, either for the "pit" or the "spit."

J. C. BENNETT.

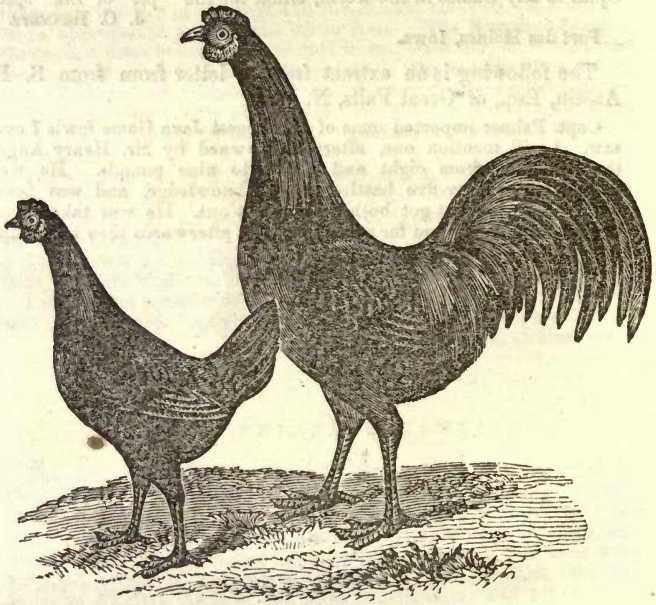
Fort des Moines, Iowa.

The following is an extract from a letter from from S. H. Austin, Esq., of Great Falls, N. H.:

Capt. Palmer imported some of the largest Java Game fowls I ever saw. I will mention one, afterwards owned by Mr. Henry Angel, that weighed from eight and a half to nine pounds. He won more than seventy-five battles, to my knowledge, and was never whipped, but at last got both his eyes cut out. He was taken from the pit, and kept blind for some time, and afterwards they killed him and stuffed his skin.

WILD INDIAN MOUNTAIN FOWL.

I have recently received a trio of these beautiful semi-Game fowls from Dr. Bennett's splendid stock, and have given them out to be bred for me, not having room for them, so extensive is my collection of the various breeds. The gentleman having them in charge, reports them to be excellent layers. He says I may "crack them up" as equal to anything in the world:



WILD INDIAN MOUNTAIN FOWL.

The fowls portrayed in this engraving, are owned by A. Verloin de Gruy, Esq., of New Orleans, and are accurate likenesses from life. They were imported and introduced into the United States by Capt. Thompson and Mr. Stockbridge, for Bower and Estes, of whom I had my original stock. My own stock, as well as that of T. B. Miner, Esq., of Clinton, N. Y., is identical with that of Mr. De Gruy.

These are a very rare kind of Indian fowl, and command admiration from all who behold them. They very closely resemble the

Wild Indian Game fowl in most respects—a noticeable difference is, however, observed, in their being heavily muffled, and of a larger size. With these exceptions, they appear to be precisely the same fowls. The hen of my imported stock weighed seven pounds when one year old, but the cock, though not weighed by me, I should judge did not exceed a pound and a half more.

The plumage of these birds is dark and glossy, and the feathers lay remarkably close to the body, and they, like the Wild Indian Games, appear to be much smaller than is indicated by the actual weight. The head of the male bird is generally ornamented with a comb exactly resembling a ripe strawberry, transversely fixed, though occasionally the comb is "roseate;" some have pea-combs. The wattles are wanting, but in lieu, between where the wattles appear in other breeds, is to be found a small dew-lap, covered by the muffler. The females have rose-combs and very small wattles. The neck is long and serpent-like, the eyes are large, and in fact, the whole head is above the ordinary size. The beak is of extraordinary strength, and hooked like that of the Eagle—the upper mandible projecting and curving over the lower; indeed, the beak and cervical contour so remarkably resemble that noble bird, that they are frequently called "The Great Indian Eagle Fowl." They were imported via Calcutta, and were originally a wild fowl from the Himmalaya mountains, in India—hence their name "The Wild Indian Mountain Fowl."

The wings are short, like most of the large Asiatic fowls, and the hackles and general plumage are unusually brilliant. They are semi-fan-tailed, but their plume feathers are shorter than is usual for Game fowls. Their legs are dark and smooth, and the under part of the foot is yellow. The flesh of these birds is white and succulent, and the fibre is much finer than in any other large fowl—much like that of the partridge.

For the table, they are *the* fowls, by far surpassing every other large breed in the savory quality of their flesh.

These birds are remarkable for their belligerent and semi-game qualities. The cocks are ferocious in aspect and disposition, and the hens seem to share in their propensities for battle. For power and prowess they are unsurpassed, but they are not what cockers call "fast fighters." Ordinarily, however, they are both very peaceable inhabitants of the barn-yard, but on the introduction of strange fowls to the roost, they are aroused to a fearful pitch of excitement.

The Wild Indian Mountain fowls are *not* Game, as some suppose, though at mature age they fight ferociously, but it is for the "spit," and not for the "pit," that these birds are so eagerly sought; and it is certain that there is no more desirable Asiatic bird for the poultry yard than these. Extra fine fleshed, good layers, remarkably unique, and surpassingly beautiful.

Occasionally these most magnificent fowls are variegated in color.

A. Verloin de Gruy, Esq., of New Orleans, La., T. B. Miner, Esq., of Clinton, N. Y., and Rev. N. S. Smith, of Buffalo, N. Y., who have these birds in perfection, are all very careful breeders, and may be relied upon for the genuine stock in its purity.

J. C. Bennett.

Fort des Moines. Iowa.

Mr. De Gruy, of New Orleans, has, it is said, the most extensive and valuable stock of poultry that is kept at the South, and my correspondents from New Orleans speak in the most extravagant terms of the beauty and size of his different breeds, the most of which he had from Dr. Bennett, or through his agency, having previously been very severely "taken in," by unprincipled breeders at the North, some of whom may be very properly termed————————never mind, the term is rather severe, and I will spare them.

CHINESE ALBIN GAMES.

CHINESE ALBIN GAMES.

This is a new breed among us. The fowls represented in the portraits are owned by Col. Mark Noble, of Great Falls, N. H., a gentleman who has devoted much time to raising improved breeds of poultry. Dr. Bennett recently imported a pair of this breed, of which he says:

Friend Miner,—I have this evening [Thursday, the 18th of Nov. 1852,] received my new importation of Chinese Albin Games, from China, via San Francisco. They are unique, and as white as alabaster. The engravings taken of those belonging to Col. Noble and myself, at the head of this article, are exact likenesses of those of this importation. All these have the snake-head and pea-comb, the fiery eye and

the sinewy leg, erect tail, and rapid motion. The importer, in a letter to me of November 9th, says: "I forward you, by express, the white Games imported from China, via San Francisco. I send all I have, and you will be sole possessor of this importation. They are the only pure white fowls I have ever seen, and they are good and TRUE TO THE DEATH, and you can rely upon them confidently. I was loth to part with these beautiful whites, but when I make a promise, I always stick to it." All of these fowls have yellow beaks, and a part of them have yellow legs, and a part yellowish green legs. The head, comb, and wattles are all smaller than those of any other Game fowl. They form a beautiful contrast with the Sumatra Games—the one an alabaster, or snow white, the other a blue black, with green metalic lustre.

As gladiatorial fowls, these whites are as fine a breed as were ever viewed from the *plaza de gallos*. A celebrated English writer says of them, (see Dixon, 334,) "The white Game fowls are, in the opinion of some, the most chaste and beautiful variety of all, and are highly prized by those who keep them."

In a letter of Dr. B. F. Griggs, of Columbus, Ga., dated Sept. 11th, 1850, to me, these fowls are described as follows:

"My favorite cock is, perhaps, as fine a Game as lives. He was presented to me by Clestine Pryor, Esq., of this city, (Columbus, Ga.,) and is of the White Chinese Game stock, imported by Bradford Thompson, the most successful cock-fighter ever known in the United States. His stock has been kept entirely pure and uncontaminated. These fowls are very fine, and are the 'fastest' fighters known. This one of mine is the most beautiful bird I ever saw. He is *pure white*, with yellow legs and bill; eyes perfectly *red*. He is proud, majestic, and eager for the fight. I propose to take the Wild Indian Game hen on the terms you propose—one hundred and twenty dollars—and shall breed her with this cock. If you are willing to do this, I shall want the hen to start for Columbus, next month, by way of Macon, to the care of my friend, Geo. A. Smith, of that city.

Respectfully, B. F. GRIGGS."

To the above extract, Dr. Griggs appends the following:

"COLUMBUS, Sept. 11, 1850.

"DR. BENNETT—*Sir:* Being requested by our friend Griggs to state to you what we may know of the above described Game cock, we take pleasure in recommending him as being one of the very finest *Game* fowls we have ever seen, and think there cannot be a finer or a better one. We are well acquainted with him, having seen him victorious in two battles, against very fine cocks; in one of these battles he killed one of our finest Southern cocks; in the other, he killed a fine Baltimore cock, over his weight. He is a beautiful bird, weighing five pounds, and we think able to whip any other of that weight to be produced.

"Respectfully, "PHILIP PRYOR, Columbus,
"JAMES REEVES, "
"W. B. WHITHUST, Alabama."

The Albin cock here portrayed was presented to me by my esteemed friend, George A. Smith, of Macon, Ga., and the hen is one of four

which Col. Mark Noble and myself purchased in the east. Col. Noble, of this place, has some very fine stock of the Chinese Albin Games.

J. A. C. Butters, in speaking of these fowls, in a letter dated West Roxbury, April 20th, 1852, says: "I think you have, this season, better hens than they have in Georgia—far better." In another letter of April 23d, Mr. Butters says: "These are the most thorough Game of any breed in this country, and you are very fortunate to possess them, as you will have a distinct breed of fowls which will breed 'in-and-in' and never change a feather, and as to *Game*, it will be unsurpassed." Mr. Butters is an amateur breeder, and an excellent judge of Games.

My friend, Col. Allen G. Summer, of Pomaria, S. C., has lately received some splendid specimens of Albin Games, relative to which, in a letter of June 8th, 1852, he says: "I am breeding some snow white Game fowls—the stock imported from China through California. They are the most beautiful birds in the world, and extremely pugnacious."

Mr. George P. Burnham, the editor of the New England Cultivator, in his July number, page 209, in speaking of my Albin Games, remarks: "His White Chinese Games, are also a superb variety, and he claims that they are 'fast' fighters, and of sure endurance and bottom."

The favorable opinion of such respectable men as Summer, Griggs, Smith, and Butters, is enough to establish the character of any breed of Games; and I think those who fancy *white* fowls can find no better bloods than the Chinese Albin Games.

JOHN C. BENNETT.

SPANISH GAME FOWL.

This fowl is thus described in the "Poultry Book," by Dr. Bennett:

"The specimens exhibited at our late Fowl Fair, were deemed the handsomest of the kind on the ground.

"The cock weighs five and a quarter pounds, and the hen, his mate, three pounds and fourteen ounces.

"This is the kind called the English fowl by Buffon and the French writers; it is more slender in the body, the neck, the bill, and the legs, than the other sorts, and the colors, particularly of the cock, are very bright and showy. The flesh is white, tender and delicate, and on this account, marketable. The plumage is very beautiful—a clear dark red, very bright, extending from the back to the extremities, while the breast is beautifully black. The upper convex side of the wing is equally red and black, and the whole of the tail-feathers black. The beak is black, and the legs are black also. The eyes resemble jet beads, very full and brilliant, and the whole contour of the head gives a most ferocious expression.

The flesh of this fowl is remarkably fine; the eggs are small, and extremely delicate."

MEXICAN GAME FOWL.

The description of these Game fowls is taken from the "Old Colony Memorial," a paper published at Plymouth, Mass. It is from the pen of Dr. Bennett:

"These fowls are in many respects remarkable. The Spanish name 'Gallus Gallenos,' or 'hen-cock,' (Latin—*Gallus Gallinaceous*,) at once introduces us to their principal peculiarity. The cocks, to all intents and purposes, resemble ordinary hens—the only marked difference being in the size of the comb and wattles. They are comparatively destitute of neck and rump hackles. The color is usually similar to that of a partridge; the legs are dark and smooth, the eyes lustrous, and the plume feathers are shorter and less brilliant than those of other fowls.

"In size, they compare favorably with other Game fowls. Their general aspect is ferocious, and their movements are lively and graceful. They are what 'cockers' call *fast fighters*. The particular fowls here described, are those obtained by me from John Giles, Esq., of Providence, and Dr. Eben Wight, of Dedham, and are now owned by C. W. Mead, of Chiccopee, and Samuel Parker, of Worcester.

"The cock has been subjected to the severest tests, by Mr. Mead, and found to evince unflinching courage before the steel. When first imported to the north, he would not breast the large breeds—would run, though not *cower*—but now *in condition*, and *acclimated*, he will stand the steel of his antagonist, without even being himself 'heeled.' He *now*, like the Sumatra and Wild Indian Games, will stand to be cut down, without in the least flinching. I should never desire fowls for fighting purposes, but fowls that *will* fight, *always* have remarkably fine and savory flesh, and are superior to all others for the '*spit*' as well as for the '*pit*.' In fact, it is for *beauty*, and the *table*, that most people prefer the Game breeds.

"Wm. Johnson, Esq., of Ky., a very scientific breeder of Game fowls, in writing to me, on this subject, observes, 'I am no cock-fighter, but I like a good horse, a good gun and dog, and a *pretty Game* bird. For the *table*, they have no equal among the domestic fowls.'

"In speaking of the Mexican Games, in a letter of the 12th of December, 1850, Mr. Johnson further remarks:

"'I read Gen. Waddy Thompson's 'Recollections of Mexico,' when it was first published, and recollect his speaking of the Game cock Gen. Santa Anna gave him. Some of our Mexican soldiers brought home some cocks from Mexico, but they won't do. They, however, differ from the cock described of Waddy Thompson's. The great requisites in Game cocks, are, first, *courage*, and next, to be *fast*. The battle is not so much to the *strong* as to the *swift*.'

"The *hen* is an imported Cuban Game fowl, now owned by Mr. Mead.

"This breed are perfectly black, and have all the points of the best sorts of Game fowls. Their prowess is wonderful, and it is rarely the case that one of them survives a defeat.

"The following letter from Col. Adam G. Summer, of S. C., to the author, gives so ample and beautiful a description of this fowl, that further comment here is unnecessary:

" 'This unique variety was introduced in 1844, by Gen. Waddy Thompson, of this State, on his return from Mexico. It is a favorite variety with the Mexicans, and their Mexican name is '*Gallus Gallenos*'—cock-hens—from the fact that the male birds have short, broad tails, and, in color and plumage, the appearance of the hens of the same variety, differing only in the combs, which are very large and erect in the cocks, and small in the hens.

" 'In Mexico they are fought without trimming, and the common Game cock will not attack these hen-looking cocks. The Mexican cock is generally pheasant-colored, with occasional changes in plumage from a light yellow to a dark grey, and recently, in the stock in Carolina, there has been a tendency to black tail feathers and breast, as well as an inclination to grey and light yellow, and with a slight approximation to red hackles in some rare instances.

" 'The majority of the whole stock, however, preserves the original pheasant-color. This variety has a strong frame, and the largest and most muscular thighs of any fowl I have as yet seen. This gives quick power to fierce action in fight, and if not killed immediately, he is sure to be victorious. I do not know whether they will fight well in a cold climate like yours The cocks are distinguished by large upright combs, strong bills, and very lustrous eyes. Their legs vary from a dirty to a dark green color. The hens differ so little from the cocks that a description is unnecessary.

" 'They are as good layers and setters as any other Game breed, and are good nurses. The cock which was the progenitor of all the stock now in the United States, was presented to Gen. Thompson by Gen. Santa Anna, just before he closed his official career as Minister to Mexico, and was victorious in a large main, fought by the famous cock-fighting Mexicans. Gen. Thompson sent to Queretaro for some hens, and thence sprang all the true cock-hens now in this country. Those sent by my brother, Wm. Summer, to Mr. Giles, Dr. Wight, and Mr. Buxton, are from a pair presented to him by Gen. Thompson, out of the original stock.

" 'Their crosses on other Game breeds are highly esteemed here as fighting fowls, and their muscular forms adapt them as well for the *spit* as for the *pit*. Wm. Summer breeds them in their purest state, and regards them as a valuable fowl for domestic purposes.

" 'A. G. Summer.'

"Mr. William Summer, in a letter to the writer, dated July 23d, 1850, in speaking of these fowls, says:

" 'I had concluded to send you a hen of mine to make out the pair, one that Gen. Thompson sent me as particularly fine; though I say, in all sincerity of heart, that the pair sent by me to Mr. John Giles, was the best pair I have ever bred. You are fortunate in securing them from him, as they will give the very best representation of the breed when in full feather. Mr. Giles, in a recent letter, informed me that the cock had improved very much.'

"Col. Summer, in a letter of July 8th, 1850, observes:

"'Santa Anna, or properly 'hen-cock,' (Gallus Gallenos—Spanish) was brought from Queretaro by Hon. Waddy Thompson, and a pair presented to us by him, has been bred pure. I have their history from Gen. Thompson.'

"Again, in the same letter, he remarks:

"'I am no *cock-fighter*, but keep a few kinds, *just to have them*. I never saw a cock-fight with gaffs, or one on which they were pitted. I have a friend who, in a gentlemanly way, participates in the sport held in our towns and cities. It prevails to considerable extent in the South, and I regret it much. No bird of mine shall ever enter a sportsman's hands.'

"I regard these fowls as excellent for the 'spit,' and they are as prolific as the generality of Games."

There are Game fowls known as "*Yankee Games*," "*Bengal Mountain Games*," and a variety of others, hybrids, or otherwise, that I do not consider worthy of a particular notice, especially those that originated by crossing. There is a white Game fowl bred in Geo., which Geo. A. Smith, Esq., describes as follows:

"This fowl, (on good authority,) is said to have been imported from China, for Thompson, a celebrated cock-fighter of this State, (Ga.)

"Their color is snow white; legs and bills, yellow; and eyes, blood red. Their general appearance is very ferocious. Their weight is from four and a half to five and a half pounds—none larger; their wings, large; tails, full and flowing; their walk, proud, and their disposition, bad. They will even fight men, dogs, cats and hogs, or anything that comes in their way. The cocks cannot be kept in hearing distance of each other, as they are sure to meet and engage in conflict.

"They are quick and sure fighters, and frequently gain the back of their antagonist, and never yield till separated. They are very scarce, those having them not being willing to part with them."

Mr. Smith says of a cross of the India Game fowls:

"A cross of these with any other Games, make the best fowl for eating purposes, that I have ever seen, and I challenge any one to show as fine flesh of other breeds, as I can of these. They grow rapidly also when young.

"I weighed one pair when four months old. The cock drew four pounds and three quarters, the pullet two pounds and a half, making seven pounds and a quarter.

"The above fowls were from a cock five months old, and a hen eleven months old; and chickens from young fowls, I believe, are allowed to be smaller than from older ones."

D. Taggart, Esq., of Northumberland, Pa., thus writes me on Games in general:

"The Game fowls have some points that are well deserving of con

sideration. Brilliant in plumage, elegant in figure, active, powerful and courageous, it is no wonder that for some hundreds of years they have found patrons among all orders of men, from the prince to the pickpocket. The 'Artful Dodger' who shares his garret with a favorite fighting cock, is not more proud or careful of him, than Prince Albert of *his* pet bird, that picks gilt oats out of a golden hopper.

"As well to the cook as the cock-fighter, do these fine fowls offer inducements. In the whole genus 'gallus,' there is no variety so well formed, so full-breasted, and so finely fleshed. So remarkable are they for symmetry and close-grained muscle, that a Game cock of four or five pounds weight, can strike a much harder blow than a Chittagong or Shanghae of ten or twelve pounds. I have turned my back on a contest of this kind, and could tell when the *Game-cock* struck, by the severity, as well as the quick repeated frequency of the blows."

The following is from the Secretary of the "*South Carolina Poultry Society:*

CHARLESTON, S. C., 6th Sept. 1851.

Dear Sir,—On your request of a few brief facts in regard to any valuable breeds of fowls in my possession, with my opinion of their merits, I will first commence with the Game fowl, which is considered by every one to be the most symmetrical, with their various hues of plumage, the most beautiful and brilliant of all the gallinaceous tribe. I have several varieties of this breed, but in my opinion the Sumatra excels them all in brilliancy of plumage, and in symmetry cannot be surpassed. They have a very peculiar, majestic gait, and when seen tipping along, they look as if they were swung upon springs. They are the handsomest fowls I have ever seen. The hen in my possession is very tame, and of a very good disposition; a good layer and sitter, and one of the best of mothers, having already raised this season two broods of eleven chicks each, and all of them are remarkably healthy, not having lost one, as yet, by disease. From the first brood, now four and a half months old, I have seven pullets, and four cockerels, one of which is selected to breed from, on account of his beautiful plumage and fine form, his breast and lower extremities being of a beautiful shining black, with black bill, and legs of a greenish yellow; neck and rump hackles of a dark, shining green, with golden-colored margins, the upper convex side of the wing, being of a very dark red, approaching to purple; also marginated with bright golden yellow tail feathers, black, with clear, dark green plumes, very long, almost hiding the tail. The pullet selected for him, is in proportion equally beautiful, every feather being marginated, but not of so bright a color.

With regard to the fighting qualities of this variety, I know nothing farther than what the gentleman says who imported the progenitors of this stock.

In April, 1847, he imported a cock and two hens, direct from Anger's Point, Island of Sumatra, India. They are from wild stock, and the natives call them Pheasants, and are very choice of those they capture and breed. They get them very domestic, and keep them almost exclusively for fighting. He has never known them,

sick or well, to cower before the steel, or quail at the terrors of the pit. They are fast fighters, and their other qualities are the same as other high bred Games.

My Yankee Game, from the stock of John C. Bennett, of Plymouth, Mass., are out of the Wild Indian Game hen, and the Spanish Game cock. They have a very bold, lofty carriage; compact and neat in appearance; close and short feathered, and semi-fan-tailed, with a small comb, and scarcely any wattles, but their wings and tail are not so long as in some other varieties; the plumage is bright, showy, and captivating in appearance. They are considered by many to be equal, if not superior to the Sumatra, which difference of opinion sustains their comparative excellencies. These, and the Irish grey, (of which I have also some very fine ones.) being pronounced the finest specimens of the Game variety, by all who have seen them. The chicks feather slowly, are healthy, and easy raised, if hatched soon in the season. In hatching the eggs of this variety, it is necessary to watch them closely after the eighteenth day, at which time, I have seen the shell entirely broke off, and the chick completely enclosed in the membrane which lines it; so much so, that it could not be released until it was cut with a pair of scissors. The chick in this case was not adhering to the membrane, but was perfectly free, using every effort to get out, and had stripped it longitudinally in several places, with the claws.

My Bengal Mountain Game, is also from the stock of Dr. Bennett, out of the Wild Indian Game hen, and an imported Bengal Mountain Game cock; he weighing eight and a quarter pounds, being one of the largest of that species. They are of a beautiful, bright, shining plumage, and in that respect nearly equal to the Sumatra; very close and short feathered, and almost entirely destitute of comb or wattles; the eyes, very brilliant; the bill, one of the most powerful I have ever seen; the neck is long, and of great strength, with large, long legs, which are rather out of proportion to the size of the body, which is small in comparison to the height, and in some measure make them resemble the Malay; they are, however, very heavy in proportion to their size; (the specific gravity of a fowl always determines its fineness and juiciness of flesh, and on which account they are preferred as being the best for table use.)

Dr. B. says, these are fast and unyielding fighters, and when the cock I now own was only two months old, he fought, on two several occasions, for three hours, and his ardor could only be cooled after these long contests, by immersing him in cold water. They may be *unyielding* fighters, but in my opinion, (I have not, however, tried them,) they are too slow; their legs being very large and heavy, they lack the agility of the other Games. A smart, well trained Game cock, would kill them, while they are studying where to hit. I have a cross produced from this variety with other Game hens, which are much improved in symmetry, the plumage being equally fine, and their motions greatly accelerated.

It is stated in many of the works on poultry, that the Game breed are not the fowls for the farmer, or those that breed for the market, on account of their quarrelsome, pugnacious disposition, being mani-

fested at a very early age, on which account but few can be reared, and that the same disposition, to a certain degree, prevails in the half-breed.

I admit this, in regard to the half-breed, but not so with the pure bred Game fowl, having raised them for several years, principally for my own table use, and on account of their beautiful plumage and symmetry. I have now in view, while writing this, eighteen stags, now about six months old, all running together in perfect harmony, never having fought; but it will not continue so long; they are now large enough for market, some of them weighing between five and six pounds, and must either be sent there, turned over to the cook, or separated very soon.

I have often been asked what I do with these fowls. My reply is, I eat them. They seem astonished at the answer, it being the opinion of many that they are only raised for fighting, or that they are too valuable to eat.

I would not exchange a fine, fat Game pullet, well roasted, for any other dish of the feathered tribe. The eggs are also far superior, two of which are worth three common eggs of the same size, either for eating or culinary purposes; and these two are equal in weight to the the three. The specific gravity in this case, as in the fowl, determines its relative quality.

Yours truly, A. C. Phin.

The following graphic description of a cock fight, is from Nolan's work:

The only persons allowed on the platform, are the setters-to. The first I shall name Nash, the younger; he was followed by a stout, plump, old, ostler-looking man, named Nash, the elder. This person carried a white bag, containing one of the brave birds for the battle. The two men stepped upon the mat; the hubbub is instantaneous—"Two to one on Nash!"—"A guinea on Nash"—Nash a crown!" The bets are laid on the setter-to. From the opposite side of the pit, a similar procession entered; the setter-to, Fleming, by name, did not appear so great a favorite as young Nash. The chuckle of the cock in his bag, was answered deeply and savagely from the other, and the straw seemed spurned in the narrow cell.

Nash's bag was carefully untied, and Nash himself took out one of the handsomest birds I think I ever beheld; he was a red and black bird; slim, masculine, trimmed, yet with feathers glossy, as though the sun shone only on his nervous wings; his neck arose out of the bag, snake-like—terrible—as if it would stretch upwards to the ceiling; his body followed—compact, strong and beautiful; and his long, dark-blue, sinewy legs came forth—clean, handsome, shapely, determined, iron-like! The silver spur was on each heel, of an inch and a half in length, tied on in the most delicate and neat manner; his large, vigorous beak, showed aquiline, eagle-like; and his black, dilating eyes, took in all around him, and shone so intensely brilliant, that they looked like jewels; their light was that of thoughtful, sedate, and savage courage; his comb was cut close; his neck trimmed; his wings clipped, pointed and strong; the feathers on his back

were of the very glossiest red, and appeared to be the only ones which were left untouched; the tail was docked triangle-ways, like a hunter's. The gallant bird clucked defiance, and looked as if "he had in him something dangerous!" Nash gave him to Fleming, who held him up above his head, examined his beak, his wings, his legs, while a person read to him a description of the bird from paper; and, upon finding all correct, he delivered the rich, feathered warrior back to Nash, and proceeded to produce his own bird for a similar examination.

But I must speak of the senior Nash, the old man, the feeder. When again may I have an opportunity of describing him? and what ought a paper upon cocking be accounted worth, if it fail to contain some sketch, however slight, of old Nash? He wore a smock-frock, and was clumsily, though potently built, his shoulders being ample, and of a rotundity resembling a wool-pack; his legs were not equal to his bulk; he was unconversational, almost to a fault, and never made even the slightest remark that did not appertain to cocks or cocking; his narrow, damp, colorless eye, twinkled a cold satisfaction when a bird of promise made good work on the mat and sometimes, though seldom, he was elevated into the proffer of a moderate bet; but generally he leaned over the rails of a small gallery, running parallel with the coop, and stooping attentively towards the pit, watched the progress of the battle. I remarked he was extremely like a cock—old Nash's beaked nose, drawn close down, over his mouth; his red forehead and gills; his round body; and blue thin legs; and his silver-grey, scanty, feathery hair lying like a plume all over his head, all proved him cock-like. This man, thought I, has been cooped up in pens, or penned up in coops, until he has become shaped, colored, mannered, like the bird he has been feeding. I should scarcely have been surprised, if told that old Nash crowed when the light first dawned of a summer's morning. I warrant he pecked bread and milk to some tune, and, perhaps, slept upon a perch! But Fleming lifted his bird from the bag, and my whole mind was directed his way. This was a yellow-bodied, black-winged handsome, cock, seemingly rather slight, but elastic and muscular; he was restless at the sight of his antagonist, but quite silent; and old Nash examined him most carefully by the paper, and delivered it up to Fleming, upon finding him answer to his description. The setters-to then smoothed their birds and handled them, wetted their fingers, and moistened their bandaged ankles, where the spurs were fastened, held them up opposite to each other, and then pampered their courage, and prepared them for combat.

The mat was cleared of all persons except Fleming and young Nash; the betting went on vociferously; the setters-to taunted the birds with each other's presence—allowed them to strike at each other at a distance—put them on the mat facing each other—encouraged and fed their crowing and mantling, until they were nearly dangerous to hold, and then loosened them against each other, for the fatal fight.

The first terrific dart into attitude, was, indeed strikingly grand and beautiful; and the wary sparring, watching, dodging for the first cut, was extremely curious. They were beak-point to beak-point, until they dashed up into one tremendous flirt, mingling their power-

ful, rustling wings, and nervous heels, in one furious, confused mass. The leap, the fire, the passion of strength, the *certaminis gaudia*, were fierce and loud; the parting was another kind of thing, every way. I can compare the sound of the first flight to nothing less than that of a wet umbrella forced suddenly open. The separation was death-like; the yellow, or rather the ginger bird, staggered out of the close, drooping, dismantled, bleeding; he was struck.

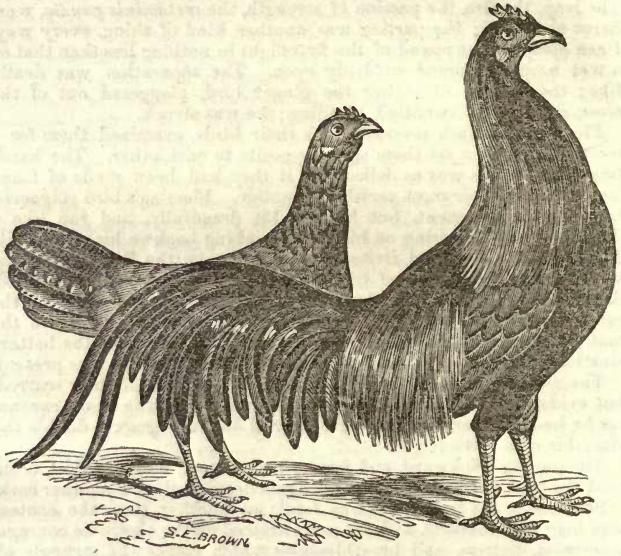
Fleming and Nash severally took their birds, examined them for a moment, and then set them again opposite to each other. The handling of the cocks was as delicate as if they had been made of foam, froth, or any other most perishable matter. Fleming's bird staggered towards his opponent, but he was hit dreadfully, and ran like a drunken man—tottering on his breast, sinking back on his tail—while Nash's, full of fire and irritated courage, gave the finishing stroke, that clove every particle of life in twain. The brave bird thus killed, dropped at once from the "gallant bearing and proud mien," to the relaxed, draggled, motionless object, that lay in bleeding ruin on the mat. I sighed and looked thoughtful, when the tumult of the betters startled me into a consciousness of the scene at which I was present.

The victor cock was carried by me in all his pride, slightly scarred, but evidently made doubly fierce and muscular by the short encounter he had been engaged in. He seemed to have grown double the size; his eyes were larger.

The paying backward and forward of money, won and lost, occupied the time until the two Nashes again descended with another cock.

Sometimes the first blow was fatal; at another time the contest was long and doubtful, and the cocks showed all the obstinate courage, weariness, distress, and breathlessness which marks the struggle of experienced pugilists. I saw the beak open, the tongue palpitate, the wing drag on the mat; I noticed the legs tremble, and the body topple over upon the breast; the eye grow dim, and even a perspiration break out upon the feathers of the back. When the battle lasted long, and the cocks lay helpless near or upon each other, one of the feeders counted ten, and the birds were separated and set-to at the chalk. If the beaten bird does not fight while forty is counted, and the other pecks, or shows signs of battle, the former is declared conquered.

The cocks were the next object of curiosity. A covering was hung before each pen, so that I heard, rather than saw the cocks; but it was feeding time, and I beheld innumerable rocky beaks and sparkling eyes at work in the troughs; and the stroke of the beak, in taking up the barley, was like the knock of a manly knuckle on the table. Old Nash was mixing bread and milk for his feathered family.



MALACCA GAME FOWLS.

When I penned my remarks on the SUMATRA PHEASANT GAMES, I was not aware that any other breed of Games in the world could be compared with them for unflinching courage and beauty; but the Malacca Games, a very recent importation, bid fair to be equal, if not superior to them. No person in the world, in my opinion, has spent so much money to search out the best breeds of fowls from the most distant parts of the world, as Dr. Bennett. The expense of sending an agent especially to Malacca, to procure this breed, has been enormous. He has also just imported by the British Royal Mail Steamer "Europa," some of the finest Game fowls, of other breeds, in England. They were purchased for him at the great Birmingham Fair, by Mrs. Hosier Williams, of Eaton Mascott, near Shrewsbury, and Wm. Cust Gwynne, M. D., of Sandbach, Cheshire. They were pronounced the best blood in England, and Dr. B. now has, without doubt, the best stock of Games in the world. The following is the Doctor's description of the Malacca Games:

The magnificent fowls which are portrayed in this cut, and which are at my place of residence—Fort des Moines, Iowa—were imported from Malacca, India, by Capt. Palmer. This stock was selected, personally, by a friend of mine, and the likenesses at the head of this article, are accurate and life-like.

No Game fowl ever viewed from the *plaza de gallos*, can equal the Malacca Games for SIZE and POWER; and as to *prowess* and *beauty*, none excel them. This bird is the "Magnus Apollo" of the Game race. It is very seldom that a cock of any other breed of Games, can stand before a *hen* of the Malacca Games. I lately imported some Games from England, relative to which, the person who selected them, says: "The Games I send are from the best blood in England, and it is a great favor to obtain them, as he will not sell them to any one in this country." I also imported from Londonderry, some Irish Games, relative to which the person who made the selection, writes: "I have purchased you some of the best Irish Games in the world, as I think." Now both these English and Irish Games were whipped by the Malacca *hens*, and it was with great difficulty that my best Sumatra Game cocks could master them, after half an hour hard fighting. I am fully satisfied that there are no Game fowls equal to the Malaccas, for the pit. They are what cockers call "*Dead Game*," and their great size gives them a decided advantage over any other breed of Games.

They will answer to the following description: Head, broad, but small, comparatively; eyes, rather large, with a red iris, and black pupil; comb, almost invariably what is called a *pea-comb;* wattles, small; hackles, of the neck and loins, long and brilliant; tail, very long and flowing, with abundant plume and sickle feathers, sweeping the ground, though not so *horizontal* as the Sumatra or Java Games; body, well proportioned, compact, and symmetrical; color, dark bronze, or mahogany, and as brilliant as the Sumatra Games; legs, dark, and sinewy. Nothing can equal the Malaccas in the richness and lustre of their plumage, except the Sumatras.

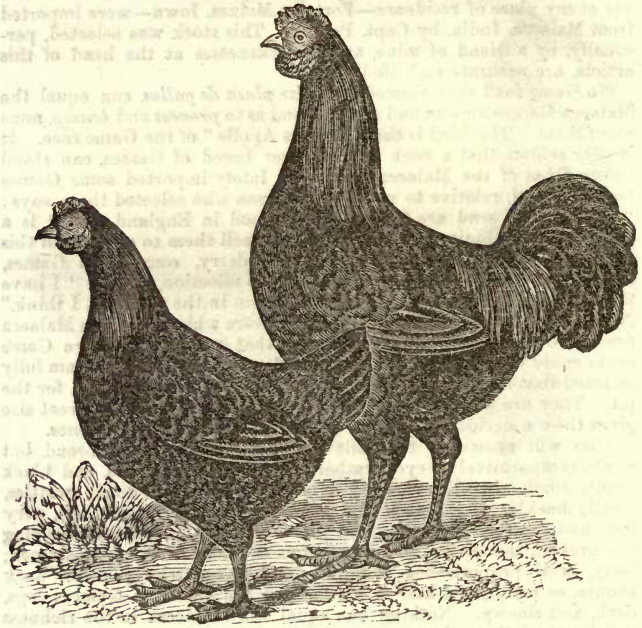
The Malacca Game cocks weigh from seven to nine and a half pounds, each; and the hens from five and a half to six and a half pounds, each.

They are excellent layers, and their flesh is fine and succulent; and in fact, there is no fowl of their weight, the flesh of which is as savory. For table use, therefore, they are unsurpassed.

My southern and eastern friends, who desire to see these fowls, can do so by calling on A. Verloin de Gruy, Esq., of New Orleans, La., Jas. McClintock, M. D., Phila., and T. B. Miner, Esq., of Clinton, N. Y., whom I shall supply at my earliest convenience.

JOHN C. BENNETT.

Fort des Moines, Iowa.



RUSSIAN FOWLS.

The above portraits represent a splendid pair of Russian fowls, in possession of A. Verloin de Gruy, Esq., No. 28, Conti street, New Orleans, who has, on his plantation, near the city, the best stock of imported fowls at the South, as before stated.

This breed is said to be very hardy, and prolific layers. They are very scarce, and cannot be had, at present, of any of the fowl fanciers, to my knowledge.

Dr. Bennett describes them as follows, having been interested with Mr. de Gruy in their importation. He will take specimens to Iowa, as breeders :

The above portraits accurately represent the beautiful black Russian fowls, from the stock of A. Verloin de Gruy, Esq., of New Orleans, La. They are by some authors called Siberian fowl, and are alluded to by Dixon and by Kerr, but their descriptions are inaccurate.

These fowls are perfectly black, with dark legs. They are what

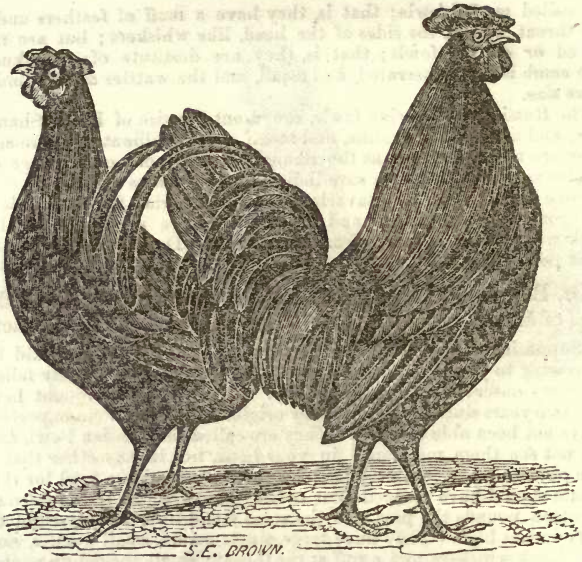
are called *muffed* fowls; that is, they have a muff of feathers under the throat, and at the sides of the head, like whiskers; but are not tufted or crested fowls; that is, they are destitute of a top-knot. The comb is single, serrated, and small, and the wattles are of diminutive size.

The Russian, or Siberian fowls, are about the size of Black Shanghaes, and are equally prolific, and much more brilliant in plumage. They are not so feathery as the Shanghaes, and consequently are of greater specific gravity—a sure indication of fineness of flesh.

Some breeders call the Bavarian fowl the Siberian fowl, but this is an error; for the Siberian and Russian fowl are identical, and this stock was imported direct from Russia. Mr. De Gruy has them in great perfection.

Dr. B. has placed at my disposal a letter from E. L. Hyde, Esq., of Mystic, Conn., from which I make the following extract:

"Supposing that information of any new breed of fowls would be interesting to you, I will inform you of a breed that has lately fallen under my observation, in this vicinity. The first were brought here some two years since, but where they originated, or by whom imported, I have not been able to learn. They are called the Russian Fowl, and I do not see them mentioned in your book, nor in any other that I have obtained, and it is very singular how so valuable a fowl for this climate should have escaped your notice. They weigh from fifteen to seventeen pounds the pair, and the stags stand from twenty-eight to thirty inches high. They have large, single combs, small wattles, and large black whiskers, and a ruff at the throat; small, tucked-up wings, large, long, body, wide breast and back, and very deep in the quarter; legs, not long, but black, except the under part of the foot, which is a deep yellow. They are of a uniform color, being a beautiful greenish black, like the feathers of a Wood Duck, with the exception that the stags have dark red hackles, with a delicate penciling of black through the middle of each, on the neck, and a very few near the root of the tail, which is even shorter than that of the Cochin Chinas. They seem particularly adapted to this cold climate, as they lay almost constantly, without a warm shelter or extra feed. One man assured me, and I have no cause to doubt his word, as he is known to be a man of truth and veracity—that one of his pullets laid 335 eggs in a year, and that other hens did nearly as well. All who have these fowls, are getting eggs every day, while those that have any other variety, get none. The eggs are a dark buff color, and are blunt at both ends, like the Cochin Chinas. I understand that they were brought from the north of Europe by a New London whaler."



ENGLISH RED-CAPS.

This is a newly imported breed from England. Their first public introduction in this country, was at the Poultry Fair of the New England Society, in September, 1852, at Boston. They were highly spoken of at that exhibition.

Dr. J. C. Bennett, of Fort des Moines, Iowa, purchased several pairs of the importer, Geo. Smith, Esq., of Valley Falls, R. I., who writes to Dr. B. as follows:

"The old pair commenced laying in December, and have laid up to last week, (Oct. 19, 1852.) They are now moulting. I sell the chickens at $15 per pair. They are a very extra fowl, unquestionably, and this importation is the only one of this breed in the United States. The old fowls are very beautiful, but you can form no idea of their beauty until one year old, or until after the second moulting, after which their whole appearance is changed, and their plumage becomes very brilliant—a bright gold color and black most beautifully intermixed and exquisitely shaded."

Dr. Bennett sent a part of his purchase to A. Verloin de Gruy, Esq., New Orleans, a pair of which are represented by the above portraits, taken from life. Mr. De Gruy will be able to supply his southern friends with these fowls in due season.

WHITE CALCUTTA FOWLS.

Here we have an entirely new breed to American fowl fanciers. We have engaged a fine pair from Mr. Roberts, the importer, whose letter is appended, at a price that would frighten our farmers, generally, out of their wits, if they had to pay such sums for fowls. We will let Dr. Bennett describe them, he having a hand in all the new importations:

The fowls portrayed above were imported direct from Calcutta, India, by Captain Sparkes. They are perfectly white, and about the size of the white Shanghaes, from which, however, they materially differ, by having longer legs, and perfectly smooth, or "clean legged," as it is called, with long tails, long necks, etc., etc., thus being essentially different from any of the white Chinese breeds. All of this excellent stock, (except three owned by Mr. George Roberts, Jr.,) now in the United States, belongs to A. Verloin de Gruy, Esq., of the firm of Henry Tete & Co., Commission Merchants, No. 28 Conti street,

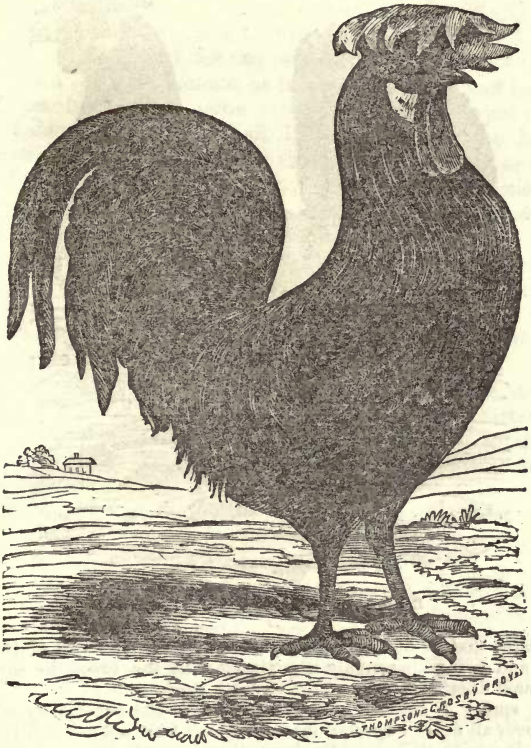
New Orleans, La. In physical contour, these White Calcutta fowls of Mr. De Gruy, very closely resemble the beautiful Hoang Ho fowls of George Haig, Esq., of Mobile, Ala. I think this decidedly the best importation of *large* white fowls ever made. They are very extra, and highly ornamental birds. Mr. Roberts' letter, annexed, is a further description of this importation.

JOHN C. BENNETT.

GREAT FALLS, Feb. 2d, 1853.

Friend Bennett,—As you wish information concerning these white fowls, I will just say: They were imported from Calcutta by Capt. Sparkes, a year since, and presented to me. In regard to the size, beauty, &c., of these fowls, I shall allow you to be the best judge; but my opinion is, there are no better fowls in the country. Mr. Lord, who bred them this season, says he has no better layers. One of the pullets, hatched last June, commenced laying the first of January, and has laid 23 eggs during the month. I think that is doing well for this season. There have been some persons trying to prove the white Shanghaes and Calcutta fowls to be one and the same breed; but they are a perfectly distinct and different breed. While the Shanghaes have short necks and short tails, the Calcutta fowls stand very tall, with a long, heavy tail, and smooth, yellow le s. There are no fowls of this stock, of pure breed, except those owned by Mr. De Gruy and myself.

Yours, &c., GEORGE ROBERTS, Jr.

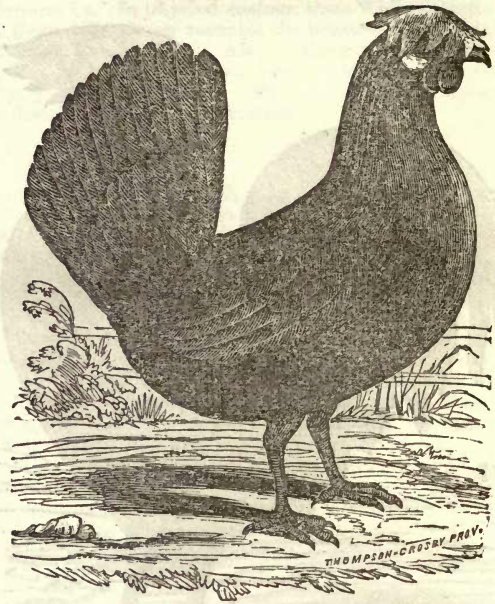


J. P. CHILDS' BLACK SPANISH FOWLS.

The above cut represents a Black Spanish cock owned by J. P. Childs, Esq., Woonsocket, R. I. This breed of fowls is very popular as layers. They seldom desire to set, consequently, their eggs must be hatched by other fowls. Mr. Childs writes me as follows:

WOONSOCKET, Sept. 20th, 1852.

MR. T. B. MINER—*Dear Sir:* The Black Spanish fowls, which this cut represents, were imported late in the summer of 1850, by Mr. J. Tucker, of Waterford, through his father, then a resident of England,



BLACK SPANISH HEN.

who states that he has bred the Spanish fowl for upwards of twenty years, and being thoroughly acquainted with the breed, he says he never saw finer specimens of the Spanish stock.

Last spring I became so well satisfied of the superiority of this stock over all other importations with which I am acquainted, (which embraces nearly all in New England,) that I obtained the entire stock, consisting of a cock and three hens, and have bred from them with very good success the past season. The difference between them and others of this breed, consists in their greater size, brilliancy of plumage, which is black, changing in the sun to a purplish green, ear lobes more fully developed, and of a pearly whiteness. The comb is also larger, and drooping on the cocks, as on the hens, and very deeply serrated. The legs are of a leaden color, and there is not the slightest variation, in this respect, in fifty chickens bred this season. They run as near alike as partridges. *They are a pure breed.* As layers, they have no equal, whether the size, number, or richness of the eggs is considered. I have a pullet eleven months old now, (Sept. 20th,) which has layed 150 eggs, and is still laying, having missed but one week since she commenced.

Respectfully yours, J. P. CHILDS.

There have been several very fine lots of Black Spanish fowls recently imported by Dr. J. C. Bennett, Dr. Wight, and Jno. Giles, Esq., the portraits of which are here shown. I have not procured this breed, for the reason, that they do not thrive so well in a very cold climate, as in a moderate one, and besides being less hardy than some other breeds, their combs are more liable to freeze. I shall, however, procure the breed, and construct warm quarters for them. As a market, or table fowl, I cannot recommend them, because it is a generally admitted fact, that all *black* fowls, of the smaller gallinaceous tribes, are hard to fatten, and their flesh not as finely flavored as that of light-colored fowls. This rule, however, does not apply with equal force to some of the large Asiatic black fowls. As *layers*, I will admit that the Black Spanish fowls are truly valuable, but beyond this, judging from analogy and other considerations, I must say that here their main worth rests.

Mr. Dimon, the writer of the following letter, says, that they are very hardy; but I must have evidence of that fact from personal experience, before I shall believe that their hardiness will compare with our large Chinese or Asiatic breeds of fowls; but at the same time, Mr. Dimon may be correct in calling them hardy, to a certain extent.

WAKEFIELD, R. I., Sept. 27, 1852.

MR. T. B. MINER—*Dear Sir:* As you request me to write an article concerning the Black Spanish fowls which I own, I will endeavor to do so. The parents of my fowls were imported from England in May, 1850, at a great expense. And they are the handsomest specimens of the Spanish stock I have ever seen. And at our State Fair last fall, they took the only premium awarded on Spanish fowls, although Mr. J. P. Childs' fowls were there.

I have for several years been more or less engaged in keeping and breeding fowls, and formerly more for pleasure than profit; but now, my object is to keep fowls for profit; and after impartially trying nearly all kinds common to this country, I have come to this conclusion —that if eggs be your object, keep the Spanish fowls in preference to any others of my acquaintance. But if raising chickens for market be your object, I would advise a cross between the Spanish and Shanghae or some other large fowl. I have been very successful in crossing the Spanish with the red Shanghaes for raising chickens for the market, as chickens from this cross grow larger than the clear Spanish, and also come to maturity much sooner than the Shanghaes, thereby producing good sized fowls for the market, of excellent flesh, that are not forever growing. The Spanish fowls of my stock are of a medium size, averaging about six pounds in weight, of a glossy black plumage, changing in the sun to a greenish hue. Their legs are of a leaden color; the soles of their feet are of a dirty flesh color,

with four toes on each foot; their combs are uncommonly high, deeply serrated, and of a very brilliant red, almost bordering on a scarlet; their wattles are very long, and of the same color; their ear lobes are of a pearly whiteness, contrasting very favorably with the plumage of the bird, which stands very erect, thereby making a very imposing appearance in the poultry yard. Some might suppose, as these birds have leaden-colored legs, their flesh would look blue, but instead of that, it is very white and delicate. My old hen commonly lays from thirty to sixty eggs to a litter, and then is inclined to incubate, but on being broken up, soon commences again; or if set, she is a good sitter and most excellent nurse.

The eggs of these fowls are very large and highly flavored. I have a pullet of this breed, raised last year, which commenced laying in February last, and has never wanted to set, but has layed almost constantly, and is still laying. The cocks of this breed, besides being very beautiful, are also very peaceable. I rarely ever saw two of them fighting together, but when insulted by other fowls, they can and will fight, with courage truly commendable. I have seen a single cock of this breed whip five full grown turkeys, *en masse*.

Above you have my honest, impartial views concerning the Black Spanish fowls. I live with a mind open to conviction. If any one can convince me that there is a breed of fowls superior to these for the purposes above stated, I will certainly try them. I would also add, the above breed of fowls are very hardy and easy to keep.

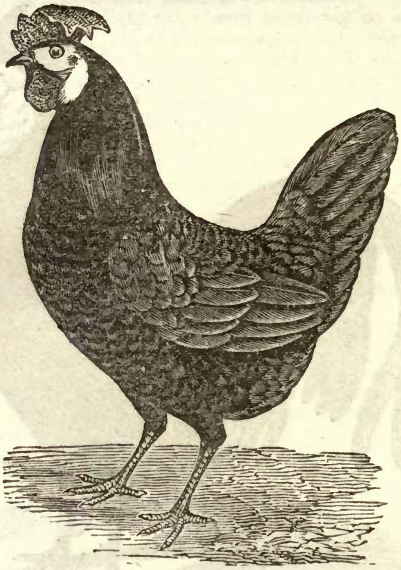
Yours truly, JOHN DIMON.

DR. EBEN WIGHT'S BLACK SPANISH FOWLS.

Dr. Eben Wight, of Dedham, Mass., (business, No. 7, Custom House street, Boston,) has probably done as much to improve our foreign and native fowls, and in importing choice stock, as any other man in Massachusetts. His Black Spanish fowls, as here represented, are the identical pair that was awarded the first premium at the great Poultry Fair in England, in 1851, which he procured at a very heavy cost; but I will allow the Doctor to tell his own story. Dr. W. took the first premium for the best *pair* of these fowls, at the Poultry Fair in Boston, Sept. 1852, and Jno. Giles, Esq., took a premium for the best *trio* of this breed.

Boston, July 20th, 1852.

T. B. Miner, Esq.—*Dear Sir:* Agreeable with your request, I send you by the express of to-day, an electrotype cut of my pair of *imported Black Spanish fowls.*



BLACK SPANISH HEN.

The drawing was made by one of our best artists, and is considered a faithful likeness by all those who have seen the fowls. They are the *identical pair* which took the First Prize as the *best pair*, at the Birmingham or "all England Show," held December, 1851. They arrived at Boston, in March, 1852, and were sent immediately out to my farm in Dedham, where they can be seen. All the fancy who have seen them, are unqualified in their expression that these are a true type of this breed.

Mr. Peck, the gentleman of whom I procured this pair, was the winner of the First Prize for the *best pair*, the First Prize for the *best three*, and the First Prize for the *best six*—thus carrying off the palm on the whole list of Black Spanish.

It is no easy matter for a person to take the highest prize on poultry, in England, where competition is open to all; and where such jealous care is used in breeding, from the humble cottager, to the nobility, who possess ample means for the procuring and the breeding of choice poultry.

Both cock and hen have the plumage of an entire black, hackles and all; and being in fine condition, there is a greenish, metalic, lustral hue, pervading the whole feathering, contrasting beautifully with the white face and cheek pieces of both cock and hen; the

cheek piece of the cock extending well down on the neck. The cock has an upright single comb, of a very large size, and deeply serrated; that of the hen is proportionably as large, drooping over on one side; the wattles of the cock are on the same liberal scale as is his comb; the legs are blue, or rather of a dark, leaden color.

A breed of handsome feathering, contrasting favorably with the bright scarlet of comb and wattles, and white cheek pieces and face, of the same texture, renders them one of the most ornamental of any of the poultry kind. Added to the ornamental, you have an *everlasting layer* of the largest sized, clear white eggs, and when the fowl is served at table, it is of white meat and skin, juicy, and of a short and fine fibre.

The cock is known by the name of "*Impudence*," and the hen by the name of "*Betty*," to breeders in England.

In breeding the Black Spanish, one must make use of other hens for hatching the eggs, since this breed are not disposed to be broody, a quality which can easily be dispensed with, and is sometimes very annoying in valuable fowls, being a duty which any common barnyard hen is ever ready to take upon herself at the proper season of the year.

In this climate, the chicks have feathered early, and from the shell upward have been strong and healthy. On first leaving the shell, they are of a size such as might be expected from extra sized eggs. Each chick has a pinafore of white, which gradually diminishes as they grow, till, at the expiration of a few weeks, they are found to be in sable plumage.

So soon as the hen got over the effect of the voyage, she commenced laying, and has uninterruptedly continued to "shell out," so that I have a good stock of her chickens on hand.

Yours, &c., EBEN WIGHT.

Martin, Dixon, and others, accord the highest praise to the Black Spanish fowl. Martin says: "The cock is a noble and stately bird, remarkable for size and height; is, in fact, superior to all our domestic races, if we except the Kuhlm fowl, and at the same time it possesses excellent symmetry. The hen is also of a large size and good figure. Brought originally, as it is believed, from Spain, this breed is nevertheless very hardy, and well adapted to our climate, and is reared as easily as any of inferior importance. To those who breed fowls for the sake of flesh and eggs, this fine variety cannot be too strongly recommended. The flesh is delicately white, tender and juicy, and the hens are free layers."

Dixon, in speaking of this breed, says: "It is a noble race of fowls, possessing many great merits; of spirited and animated appearance, of considerable size, excellent for the table, both in whiteness of flesh and skin, and also in flavor, laying exceedingly large eggs in considerable numbers.

"Among birds of its own breed, it is not deficient in courage, though it yields, without showing much fight, to those which have a dash of Game in their veins.

"Thorough bred birds of the fancy should be entirely black, as far

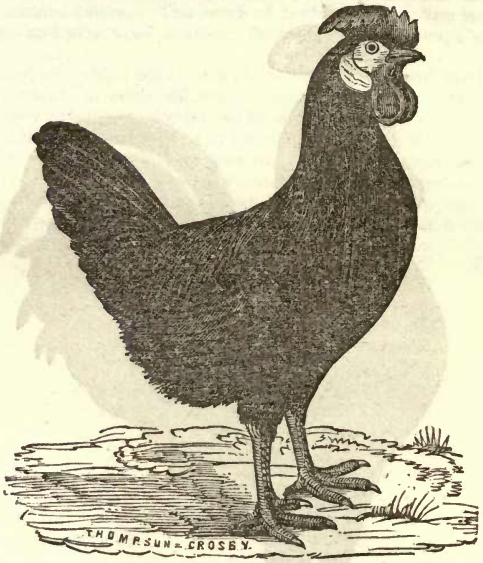
as feathers are concerned, and, when in high condition, display a greenish, metalic lustre. The comb of both cock and hen is exceedingly large, and of a vivid scarlet; that of the hen droops over on one side.

"The most singular feature, is a large white patch, or ear-lobe, on the cheek, which, in some species, extends over a great part of the face, of fleshy substance, similar to the wattle; it is small in the hens, but large and very conspicuous in the cock. This marked contrast of black, bright red, and white, makes the head of the Spanish cock as handsome as that of any variety we have; and in the genuine breed the whole form is equally good; but the scraggy, long-legged, misshapen mongrels one often sees in the poorer quarters of a town, are enough to throw discredit on the whole race."

E. W.

JOHN GILES' BLACK SPANISH FOWLS.

These fowls, and those belonging to Dr. Wight, and Dr. J. C. Bennett, Fort des Moines, Iowa, are very nearly identical, and the difference in the appearance of the portraits of the above, and Dr. Wight's, is owing more to the model given to them by their respective draughtsmen, than to any real difference in shape existing in the fowls, though there is some little difference, without doubt. Mr. Giles' fowls, or the above crower, is evidently made to appear taller than he really is, and with longer legs than he actually possesses.



BLACK SPANISH HEN.

Mr. Giles is the most extensive fowl fancier, for pleasure merely, in New England, and his opinion may be taken as the result of a long experience. In a communication to me, previous to that which is here annexed, he said: "If I were asked what fowls are best, if your object be *eggs*, I would recommend, in all candor, the Black Spanish as preferable to all other breeds." It may be proper, however, to add, that Mr. Giles is no friend to the Asiatic breeds, and I think had not, at the time of writing the above, ever kept any of the *now* reputed best large breeds, as layers.

PROVIDENCE, May 8, 1852.

T. B. Miner, Esq.,—Herewith please receive casts from my cuts of fowls, as by your request. As you are about publishing a treatise on poultry, I suppose that you are pretty well posted up in all matters pertaining to it, and I will therefore venture but few remarks.

There is a standard, you know, for fowls of pure blood, precisely as there is for neat stock. This standard is that recognized by the London Zoological Society, and is founded on close and continued obser-

vations by the distinguished naturalists, breeders and fanciers, who belong to that enterprising and eminent society. No better, nor any so good, can be shown; nor do I know that, among enlightened men, there is any other. I have therefore adopted this standard as my guide in selecting and breeding domestic poultry, and aquatic and other fowls, of which I now have, in all, over fifty varieties.

My object is not to puff my fowls, for I have no desire to make money out of them, (I would prefer to exchange for such varieties as I do *not* possess,) but to use my exertions to introduce here another, and a more consistent and reliable standard, than mere opinion and guess work; and also to breed for myself none other than the pure blood, of whatever breed.

After forty years' experience in the breeding of fowls, both here and in England, and having, in that long space of time, owned and bred every known variety, it will scarcely be deemed presumptuous in me to have an opinion of my own.

The drawings of Black Spanish fowls, copies of which I send you, were taken in my yard, from life. The cock is under eleven months old, and is not, of course, fully matured.

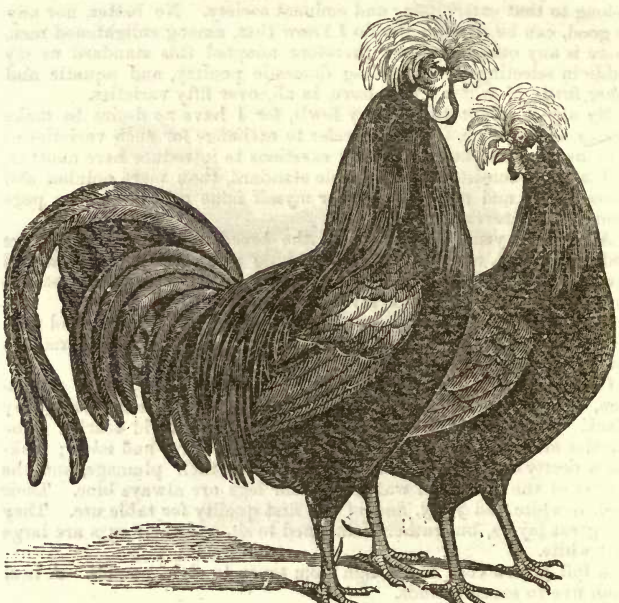
Of all domestic fowls, the Black Spanish rank first, in my estimation, for beauty and utility. Their plumage is a beautiful glossy black. The comb is large and serrated, and of a vivid scarlet. The wattles are long; the cheek, white; ear-lobes, *large* and *white*; making a pretty contrast with the sable hue of their plumage, and the scarlet of the comb and wattles. Their legs are always blue. Their flesh is white and juicy, and of the first quality for table use. They are great layers, but rather disinclined to sit, and their eggs are large and white.

A full grown cock will weigh from seven to eight pounds. A hen, from five to seven pounds.

The comb of this breed, from its great size, is apt to freeze; but this can be easily prevented by a little care and caution during severe weather.

At this present time, there are many black fowls, with large combs, that are ignorantly or designedly sold for "*pure* Black Spanish," that lack many of the distinguishing marks of the pure breed. Purchasers will find to their sorrow, that they pay for bastards.

I am yours, respectfully, JOHN GILES.



BLACK POLAND FOWLS.

This breed is somewhat akin to the Black Spanish fowls, being non-incubators, like that breed. Their characteristics are similar to the Black Spanish fowls in nearly all respects, being about the same size, same color, same prolific layers, or perhaps, not quite equal to the former breed in that respect, but they are prolific layers in general, and when that is said, all is said that can be in their favor. They are delicate and tender in a great degree—more so, probably, than the Black Spanish fowls, and it is only a vexation to attempt to raise their young. They are not adapted to severe climates, being more or less affected with a snuffling, cold, or roupe, during the cold season. I speak understandingly, having bred these fowls extensively on Long Island some years ago.

The pure breed of Black Polands should be black to a feather, except the tuft, or top-knot, which is a pure white. When the tufts are intermixed with black, or other colored feathers, it is a sure indication that the fowls are not pure.

The tufts on the hens are of an oval, round shape, and very beautiful, but those of the cocks, in the pure blood fowls, curve over, like the branches of the weeping willow, on either side, leaving the upper part of the tuft more depressed than in hens. Very few pure fowls of this breed are now to be had, being generally tinctured, more or less, with the blood of our native fowls, as their tufts of various hues indicate, and also the stray white, or light-colored feathers so frequently seen on their bodies.

I have crossed this breed with our native dominique fowls—the blue-spotted fowl—with good success. I placed a Poland cock with several pullets of the latter breed, and the result of this cross, was a pure black fowl, with a *black* tuft, in all cases, in pullets; but the cocks were both variegated in the plumage of the body and tuft, which is a little curious in showing certain principles of cross-breeding. The following is from a correspondent of the Northern Farmer:

A year ago I gave the result of my operations with a small lot of Black Poland hens. Having done better the year past, with the same breed, I have thought it might be beneficial to some of the patrons of the "Farmer" who keep but few fowls, to know how well I have done, and how I did it. I reckon from the first of February, at which time early pullets begin to lay, if they have ordinary care.

The number of hens was ten, and one male. The whole number of eggs sold and used in the family, up to January first, (eleven months,) was sixty-eight dozens. Those sold brought the following prices, viz:

10 doz., at 14 cts. per doz.			$1 40
50 " 12½ " "			6 25
8 " used, say 12½ cts. per doz.			1 00
Sold from same hens, 42 chickens, 13 cts. each			5 46
Total proceeds			$14 11
Deduct for feed, 5 bu. corn, at 56 cts. per bu.	$2 80		
" " 6 bu. oats, at 38 cts. per bu.	2 28	5 08	
Profits			$9 03

The fowls were not confined at all, but had free access to the dung-hill and a quarter acre of plowed ground; and no attention was paid them but to feed them regularly twice a day, the corn in the winter and spring, the oats in the summer and fall. Valuing the hens at twenty-five cents each, the above shows a profit of nearly three hun-

dred per cent. on the capital invested, and may be easily secured by any family living in the open country. A dozen hens may run at large, except in seeding and harvest time, if well fed, without doing much damage. Experience proves that this kind of fowl are able to supply themselves with what they require for constant laying, except food, if allowed their liberty on broken ground; but if confined, they must be furnished with all they can consume of grain, water, lime, gravel, and a little meat or fat, once a day to do well.

W.

The following is selected from one of the Agricultural journals:

"My fowls are of the Poland variety, full-blooded, jet black, except the top-knot, and sometimes two partly white feathers in the tail of the cock. I have eight hens. They have laid between six and seven hundred eggs, from March 1st to September, and raised twenty-four chickens. Being engaged in building an addition to my house, my poultry record was lost for a time in August, so I cannot give the *exact* number of eggs. But it will be within the bounds of truth, to say that the seven hens, laid six hundred eggs between March and September, and raised twenty-four chickens. The early chickens commenced laying in November, and have continued to lay until the present time, with the exception of about five weeks in the coldest weather. Early chickens, at maturity, make much larger fowls than late ones.

"The cost of keeping my hens has been forty cents per year, each. Living in a village, I keep them housed until four o'clock in the afternoon, when they have the run of a yard, and are shut up at night. I usually feed screenings, at twenty five cents per bushel, and corn at forty-five to fifty cents. My early spring chickens weigh from three to three and a half pounds in the fall, when dressed. I have now twenty-four hens, and expect to revel in *fat* eggs all the year."

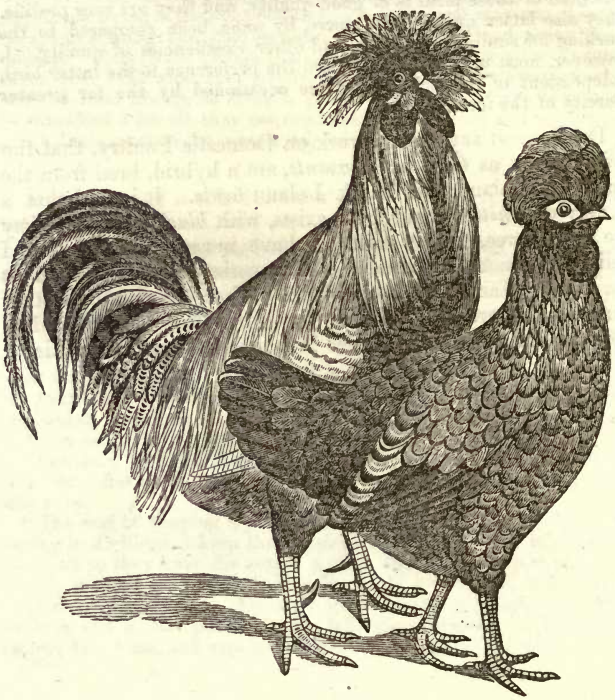
SPANGLED POLAND FOWLS.

This is a beautiful variety of ornamental fowls. Richardson speaks of them as follows:

"The Spangled Polands are a bird of extraordinary beauty, extremely scarce, and very difficult to be procured. This fowl presents a symmetrical and regular combination of the following colors, viz: A bright *orange*, a clear *white*, a brilliant *green*, and a jetty *black*, softened down with a rich and pure brown, every feather being tipped with white, so as to produce the effect whence has been derived the term of SPANGLED. The color of the hen is a prevailing golden yellow, with white spangles, like the cock. In the cock, the thighs are black, and are, likewise, though in a less degree, marked and spangled with black, and golden yellow. The hinder end of the body is furnished with green and orange-brown hackles, and the tail is carried well up.

The flesh of these birds is of good quality, and they are very prolific. They also fatten quickly, and have, by some, been compared to the Dorking for similarity of flesh, and other excellencies of quality. I, however, must unequivocally award the preference to the latter bird, independent of the enhanced price occasioned by the far greater scarcity of the former.

Dr. Bennett says in his work on Domestic Poultry, that the fowls known as *Golden Pheasants*, are a hybrid, bred from the Spangled Poland and Black Poland fowls. It is said that a variety of *white* Poland fowls exists, with *black* tufts, but they are very scarce, if they exist. I have never seen any, but I believe that some specimens of this variety were exhibited at the Poultry Fair in Boston, in 1852. There are also some other varieties that are called Poland fowls, but their reputation does not demand a particular notice in a practical work like this.

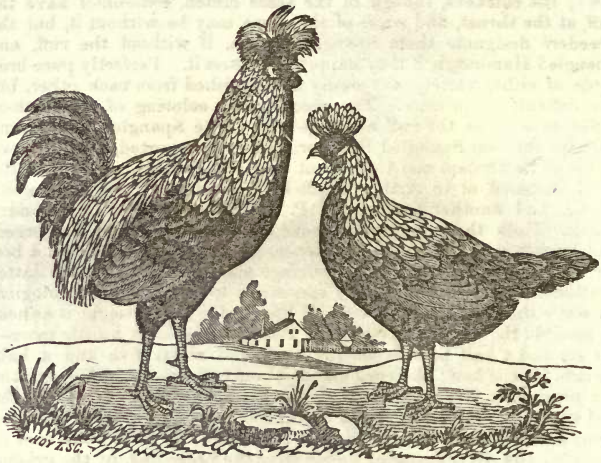


SPANGLED HAMBURGH FOWLS.

This breed, though beautiful, are scarce, and but little is said about them in the journals of the day. There are two varieties of these fowls, the *silver* and *golden* Spangled. They are said to be similar in size and form, and differ in color only. Nolan thus describes these fowls:

They are a very beautiful variety of poultry, distinguishable from Spangled Poland fowls by their large top-knot being colored, instead of white, and their black and conspicuous ruff on their throat, and under their beak; they approach so nearly to them that they are frequently confounded with each other, and even bred together, as the same, which has caused the Hamburgh so frequently to show the white feathers in their top-knot, and the Spangled Polish the dark coloring in theirs; but still the ruff at the throat distinguishes the

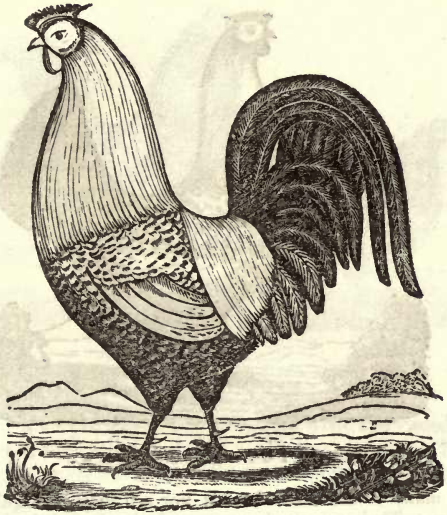
fowl; the chickens, though of the same clutch, sometimes have the ruff at the throat, and some of the same may be without it, but the breeders designate them Spangled Polish, if without the ruff, and Spangled Hamburgh, if they happen to possess it. Perfectly pure-bred birds, of either variety, are easily distinguished from each other, but are difficult to procure. The ground and coloring of the feathers differ as well as the ruff and top-knot. The Spangled Polish, and perhaps the best Spangled Hamburghs I ever imported, were shipped to me at Rotterdam and turned out very superior birds. Part of the lot I disposed of to Arthur Haffield, Esq., of the Treasury, Dublin Castle, and another part to R. P. Williams, Esq, of Drumcondra Castle. Both these gentlemen have carefully preserved the breed, and I venture to say, their experience, for years, has not found a better. So superior were they in carriage and plumage, that the latter gentleman has forwarded some specimens to the London Zoological Society's show, to compete with all England. Their weight is as near as possible the Black and Spangled Polish, or perhaps, a little more—say six and a half pounds for the cock, and about five and a half pounds for the hen; the cock stands about twenty-one inches, and the hen nineteen. If even pure-bred, this bird is subdivided into golden and silver spangled, the ground of the feathers of the golden spangled being a rich yellow, approaching to an orange red, with black spot or spangle; the silver spangled differs from the preceding, by the ground of the feathers being a silvery white; both are frequently obtainable in the same clutch. The comb, as in other highly crested fowls, is diminutive; wattles, small; hackles, gold or silver spangled, according to plumage; tail, beautifully plumed; legs, blue or white; skin, white; flesh, white and juicy; eggs, a moderate size, and abundant; chickens, easily reared. I should wish, from their superior beauty and usefulness as layers, they were more abundant. The slightest cross deteriorates their value; they may be truly said to be both useful and ornamental; they are just such birds as a lady of good taste would wish to see about her lawn; and she would not be disappointed if she wished for a fresh egg, or omelet daily.



E. ABORN'S HAMBURGH FOWLS.

The above portraits represent fowls owned by Mr. Edward Aborn, No. 30 South Water street, Providence, R. I. They are identical with the breed, the portraits of which precede these, but are drawn on a smaller scale. Mr. Aborn writes me as follows:

The Silver Spangled Hamburgh fowls are very beautiful. The ground color is a pure white spangled with black on each feather, which, in the rays of the sun, has a very handsome green appearance. The neck and saddle hackles of the cock, are striped down the center with black, and the margin is a pure white. The tail feathers are mottled with black and white. On the crest, immediately above the beak, are two small fleshy horns. They have white ear lobes, and in place of a comb, they have a very large black and white tuft, or top-knot. Under the head is a dark-colored tuft, like a beard. Their legs are blue. They are very good layers, but are seldom inclined to sit.



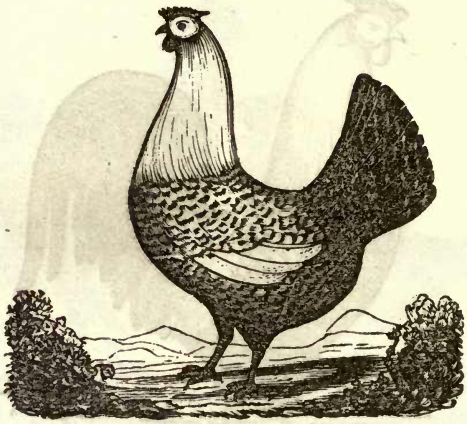
BOLTON GREY, OR CREOLE FOWLS.

These portraits are intended to represent fowls owned by Mr. John F. Brown, of Woonsocket, R. I., but as these are a small fowl, the cuts give an impression that they are larger than they really are. It is not an easy matter to produce portraits that shall always give a true idea of the relative size of fowls.

This breed of fowls are great favorites, wherever known. They are truly beautiful, especially the chickens, when quite young. They attain their natural shape at an early age, and have the appearance of Bantams, when half grown.

These fowls are celebrated as layers, above all other qualities. John N. A. Kobb, Esq., of Pa., thus writes me:

The Bolton Grey, or Creole fowl, is a great favorite in this State, the hens of which are noted as being constant layers. They are small in size, and plumply made; their legs are short, and of a bluish color; feathers of the genuine breed are white on the neck; the body, white, thickly spotted with black; comb, very large and double; wattles, also large. They are good layers, but *very poor nurses.* I have a favorite hen of this species, six years old, which never manifested a desire to set for a greater length of time than two or three days, and then has left her nest entirely. These fowls are not as



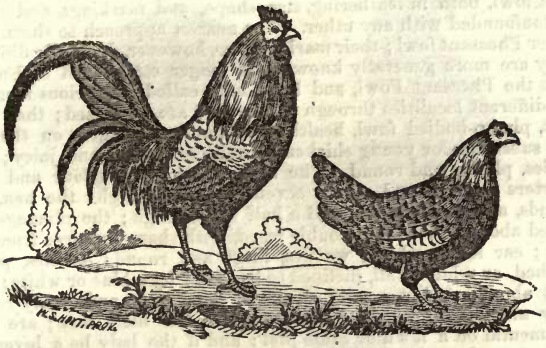
BOLTON GREY HEN.

hardy as many of our other breeds, nor are they as highly esteemed for table use. Their principal recommendation is their laying qualities.

D. Taggart, Esq., of Northumberland, Pa., in a letter to me, says:

For continued laying, uninterrupted by the desire to sit, the pure Creoles, or Bolton Greys, have no superiors. I have known some of the hens to live seven or eight years without evincing the slightest disposition to incubate. From 180 to 200 eggs, is no uncommon yield for a hen of this breed, *the first year.* With every subsequent year, however, the number diminishes, until entire barrenness supervenes. This occurs generally about the sixth or seventh year, in hens like the Polish and Creoles, whose ovaries are seldom rested by incubation, and later, of course in those that are allowed to sit whenever they have a desire, producing only 70 or 80 eggs a year.

The Creoles are rather below the medium size, weighing from three to four and a half pounds. For uniformity of size, shape and color, I have never known their equal. They are so well described in the books, as to need no further description from me.



E. ABORN'S BOLTON GREYS.

The fowls here portrayed are identical with the breed owned by Mr. Brown, and fully as large. They are said to be some of the choicest stock of Bolton Greys to be found in New England. Mr. Aborn says:

This is a beautiful little breed, plump in their make—ground color, a pure white, spotted with black, and sometimes running into a grizzle. The legs, blue; tail, black; double, or rose comb, of a bright red color. The cock is mostly white; breast and wings, slightly spotted. The hen's neck is a pure white, and when she is in laying order, she spreads her tail like a fan.

They are most excellent layers. Their flesh is inferior in quality to other breeds. They are non-setters. To those who wish to keep a few fowls, for fresh eggs, I would highly recommend this breed. They are very hardy, and easily kept.

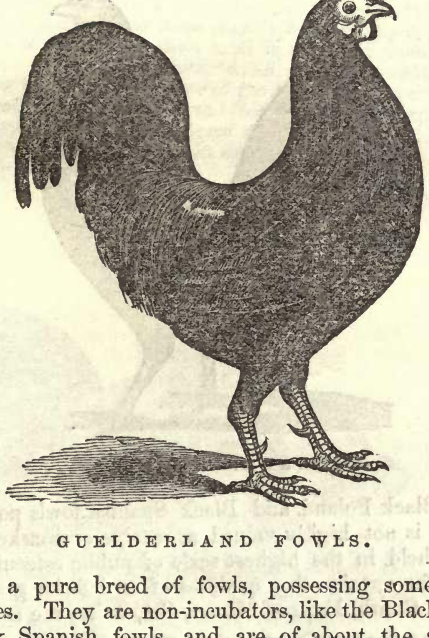
The following are selections from good authorities:

"They are a very handsome little fowl, frequently imported from Holland, but seem to have made a stand in Bolton, in Lancashire, from whence they are named, and where they are a strong feature amongst the prize poultry, shown for feather. The ground color of the Bolton Greys is pure white, beautifully and minutely touched with black, originating the appellation of penciled fowl. Bolton Bays are precisely the same fowl, but not so abundant—the only difference being the ground of the feather is a Rufus yellow; the markings, or penciling is precisely the same as in the Greys. There is not the slightest distinction between the two, in any other respect. They are known by provincial names, in various parts of the country. In the neighborhood of London, from the frequency of their being brought

over by the Rotterdam steamers, they are denominated 'Dutch Penciled Fowl,' or 'Dutch Every-day Layers.' They are an entirely distinct fowl, both in feathering, size, shape, and markings, and cannot be confounded with any other. The nearest approach to them, is the Silver Pheasant fowl; their markings are, however, decidedly different. They are more generally known and longer established in England than the Pheasant Fowl, and have been called by various names, in the different localities through which they are dispersed; they are a neat, plump-bodied fowl, healthy and hardy, very nice on the table as a substitute for young chickens; their flesh, white and juicy; their bodies, plump and round. The cock weighs about four and three quarters pounds, and stands seventeen inches high; the hen, four pounds, and stands fifteen and a half inches high; the plumage, described above; the comb, double rosed, with sharp top, free from top-knot; ear lobes, white; wattles, large and round; hackles, pencil-touched, or white; tail, inclined to be dark; legs, blue or white; eggs, most abundant, but small; chickens, handsome, and easily reared. They are beautiful ladies' pets; require but little care; are truly ornamental on a lawn or grass plot; and if the lady be a lover of a fresh egg, she will not be disappointed by the 'Dutch Every-day Layers.' "—*Nolan.*

"They are small in size, short in the leg, and plump in the make; the color of the genuine kind invariably pure white in the whole lappel of the neck; the body, white, thickly spotted with bright black, sometimes running into grizzle, with one or more black bars at the extremity of the tail. They are chiefly esteemed as very constant layers, though their color would also mark them for good table fowls." —*Mowbray.*

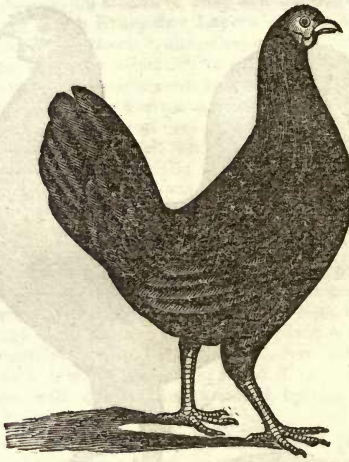
"They are white, with black spots all over, except the neck, which is perfectly white. Their tails are more fan-like, or displayed, during laying time, and their rumps present a fuller, or more elevated appearance, than other fowls. The ends of the tail feathers are generally blackish. They are capital layers, but poor sitters."



GUELDERLAND FOWLS.

This is a pure breed of fowls, possessing some singular peculiarities. They are non-incubators, like the Black Polands and Black Spanish fowls, and are of about the same size. Neither the cocks nor the pullets have combs; but they have a hard, bony indentation, of a dark color, in the place of a comb. They are fowls of a peculiar dignity and grace in their carriage, being lofty in bearing; and the extended dimensions of their tail feathers adds much to their beauty. Their plumage is of a beautiful blue-black, and bearing a brilliant gloss at certain seasons. Their legs are dark-colored, and are sometimes feathered; wattles, large; eggs, a pure white, and about equal in laying qualities to the Black Poland fowls, or perhaps, the Black Spanish.

I received a trio of these fowls from the yard of G. H. Bacheler, Esq., Lynn, Mass., last season, and I found them to be very good layers. They are truly portrayed by the engravings here annexed, but they never can become very popular, on account of their dark-colored legs, and the same delicate nature



GUELDERLAND HEN.

that the Black Poland, and Black Spanish fowls possess; as a fowl that is not highly valued as a table or market fowl, can never be held in the highest scale of public esteem, except as layers or for certain other qualities of an inferior grade.

Geo. A. Smith, Esq., of Macon, Ga., writes me as follows:

These are a fine fowl for ornament, and very good layers and sitters. I do not think them good for the table. When walking, their heads and tails touch. They have no combs, but large gills. I think they will breed in-and-in always, without degenerating.

I am indebted to H. L. Devereux, Esq., of Boston, for the following description of this breed:

The pure black Guelderland fowl, has never, to my knowledge, been described in any of the poultry books published in England or this country. They were imported from the north of Holland, in the month of May, 1842, by Captain John Devereux, of Marblehead, Mass., in the ship Dromo, on his voyage from Amsterdam to Boston; and since that time, they have been bred by him at his place in that town, entirely distinct from any other breed. They are supposed to have originated in the north part of Holland. They have no comb, but a small, indented, hard, bony substance instead; and large, red wattles. Their legs are of a shining black, smooth, and without feathers, except in a very few instances. Dr. B., in his work, is by some means led into error. Where the legs are "*heavily feathered*,"

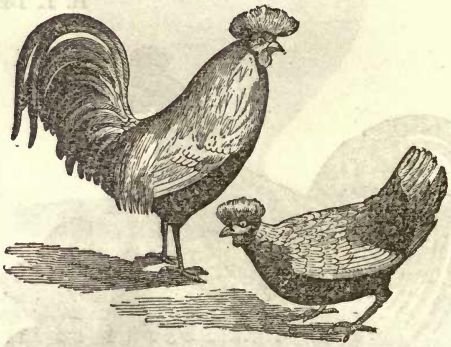
I am inclined to think they have been crossed with the dark Shanghae; such crosses I have seen. In a flock of some twenty or thirty, you may, perhaps, see some two or three slightly feathered upon the legs. Such is the fact with regard to those bred in our yard, from the old imported fowls. Their flesh is white, tender, and juicy, making valuable poultry for the table. They are of good size, great layers, seldom or never inclined to sit, bright, active birds, and are not surpassed in point of beauty or utility, by any breed known in this country. The uniform aspect which is observable in their progeny, is a proof of the purity of the breed.

H. L. Devereux.

NATIVE DOMINIQUE FOWLS.

In this breed my readers will recognize a native race of fowls, of considerable merit; and the blood and purity of which remain unadulterated in a remarkable degree. It will hardly be necessary to give a detailed description of this breed, so well known in almost every farm-yard in the country. They are a blue-speckled, variegated, or penciled fowl, of medium size, hardy, well-formed, and prolific, and may be considered as one of our best native breeds. They seem to be proof against a mixture of blood, in ordinary cases, when running in the same

yard with other breeds, provided both cocks and hens of this breed are present. They are said to have come originally from the island of Dominica. Mr. G. C. Pierce, of Danvers, Mass., says: "Taken all in all, I consider them to be one of the best native breeds of fowls, that we have, and I do not know any breed that alters so little by in-and-in breeding. They are first rate layers, and good sitters and nurses." In brief, I can say, that a better *native* fowl will be very hard to find.

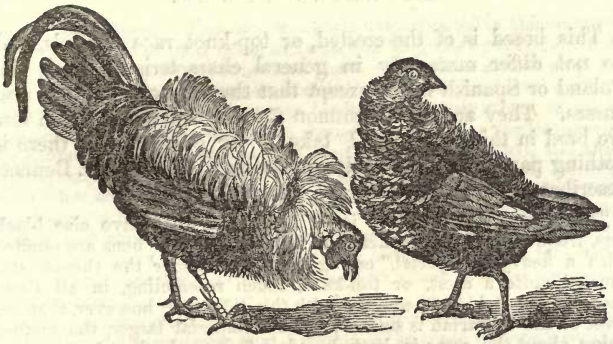


SILVER PHEASANT FOWLS.

Here we have a charming breed of little fowls—perfect beauties in every respect, and remarkable for great brilliancy of plumage, and diversity of colors. Dr. Bennett thus describes them:

On a white ground, which is usually termed silvery, there is an abundance of black spots. The feathers on the upper part of the head are much longer than the rest, and unite together in a tuft. They have a small, double comb, and their wattles are also comparatively small. A remarkable peculiarity of the cock is, that there is a spot of a blue color on the cheeks, and a range of feathers under the throat, which has the appearance of a collar.

The hen is a smaller bird, with similar plumage to the cock, and at a little distance seems to be covered with scales. On the head is a top-knot of very large size, which droops over it on every side. These are beautiful and showy birds, and are chiefly valuable as ornamental appendages to the poultry-yard.



FRIZZLED FOWLS.

Old Dame Nature cuts some curious freaks, as the above fowls manifest. Not being content to allow all fowls to have their feathers lie smoothly from head to tail, she must evince her caprice by turning the feathers around on the above fowls, and have them point towards the head! The above portraits are from life, and give a very correct idea of the figure of the fowls. They are a curiosity, to say the least of them. They are bred by a few New England fanciers, and are sold as an ornamental fowl. What their laying qualities are, I am not fully prepared to say, but Nolan gives them a good character for productiveness. He says:

They are healthy, hardy, and abundant layers, good sitters, and no better mothers, and the chickens easily reared, and though, to appearance, they are exposed to the inclemency of the weather, they are not so, having an abundant downy covering under their feathers, and well calculated for bringing up their own, or any other stock. I can with confidence recommend them as mothers, for Game fowl, (I mean Pheasants, Capercalzie, Black-cock, Ptarmigan, Grouse, or Partridge,) and are just as easily kept as the commonest cottage breed; they are of all colors; of the ordinary size of our domestic fowl; are said to be of eastern origin. The cock weighs about five pounds, and stands about eighteen inches high; the hen about four and a half pounds, and stands about sixteen inches high. The plumage has a truly singular appearance, each feather being curled up, and projecting from the bird; the comb rather large, serrated and erect; free from top-knot; ears and cheeks of ordinary appearance; wattles, large and rounded; hackles, to correspond with their color; tail, plumed as in other fowls; legs, of the various colors of the bird.

BAVARIAN FOWLS.

This breed is of the crested, or top-knot race of fowls, and do not differ materially in general characteristics from the Poland or Spanish fowls, except that they are good sitters and nurses. They are not a common fowl in the market, and few are bred in this country. I take it for granted that there is nothing particularly desirable pertaining to them. Dr. Bennett describes them as follows:

The plumage of this fowl is jet black, and they have also black legs, frequently feathered heavily. Both cocks and hens are muffled with a heavy "imperial," or "goat-beard," under the throat, and usually quite a crest, or top-knot, much resembling, in all these respects, the Golden Pheasant; with this difference, however, that the crest of the Bavarian is smaller, and the imperial larger, the muffler being about the same in both breeds. Tails and wings longer than most of the large breeds, excepting the Dorkings.

The eggs are usually large, white, and well-flavored. They are among the very best layers, and are good sitters, and careful nurses. The weight is generally from five to eight pounds. They come to maturity very early, are more hardy than either of the two preceding varieties, and the chickens are very easily raised. Although I esteem the Guelderland and the Spanish fowls as pure breeds, and excellent in all respects, yet I prefer these, especially on account of the size of their eggs.

Occasionally one of this breed, of perfectly pure blood, may be seen entirely destitute of a crest, with a large muffler, small imperial, and lightly feathered legs. Those with these marks are usually the best, being larger and better layers.

RUMPLESS FOWLS.

This is a breed of fowls without tails—another freak of nature. Several varieties of this race of fowls are bred in this country, and their character is well known in many places. They possess the various good qualities of our common fowls, differing in nowise, save in the lack of a tail. Where this breed originated, is not known, nor is it important to know whether they came from the North pole, Simm's hole in the center of the earth, or from the tropics. Main says:

Some writers, among whom is Temminck, consider this bird a distinct species, rather than a variety; the wild breed from which it originated still existing, and confined to the deep forests of Ceylon. Its principal characteristic is the want of a tail, hence its name, Rumpless Fowl, by which it is more commonly known; though in the wild bird the comb is not indented, and the wattles are blood-colored

rather than scarlet. This bird was early domesticated in this country, and from the fact of their being early seen in Virginia by travelers, Buffon imagined they were indigenous there. One of the most singular facts about this bird is its entire destitution of the gland on the rump, from which it is supposed common fowls derive their stores of oil to smooth their feathers and protect them from rain. As the feathers of the Rumpkin are not less smooth than those of other fowls, and shed rain equally well, it would seem this gland was destined to perform some other office, and that the common notion on this subject had little foundation in fact. In the wild breeds, the feathers are all of a dusky orange, and this, on a reddish brown, seems to prevail among the domesticated ones. There are, however, some instances in which the common birds are finely variegated—one of which is in the possession of the writer.

This breed is looked upon by some to be a native of Persia. Buffon thinks, on the contrary, that Virginia is the place whence it sprang. He grounded his opinion, on the one hand, on what is reported by the Philosophical Transactions of 1693, that when fowls are taken to that country, they seem to lose their rumps; and on the other, on naturalists having only begun to mention fowls without tails, after the discovery of America. I am not of that opinion, says Main, which appears not admissible. In fact, modern travelers have not confirmed the loss of the rump, which the English experience in Virginia, and it is positively known, that in the other parts of America, in the hottest even, this privation does not take place.

ITALY FOWLS.

Whether the above fowls are entitled to the name of a distinct breed, I am unable to say. But little notoriety has been given them, and the works on domestic poultry do not describe them. Mr. S. Y. Clark, of N. J., thus writes:

Understanding that you are going to dish us up with some sketches and samples of poultry, I offer an account of a kind which is common in our neighborhood. Where they came from, I do not recollect; but, considering this of secondary importance, admitting them to be exotics, I will proceed to describe them.

They are known here by the name of "Italy Fowls," and in appearance differ mainly from others by their large combs, which, in some of the males, are from one and a half to two inches broad, double, and covering the entire crown of the head. They are about medium size, of a color varying from mottled grey to a light dun. In some males, however, the predominating color is red. The full bloods have rather blue legs and skins, which, in my opinion, is their only fault. But they mix freely with other breeds, and with little care, they can be had with bright yellow legs and skins. The texture of their flesh is fine and well flavored, and they come to perfection earlier than any other breed I have ever had. I have five or six breeds of fowls, but

these much outdo the Polands in appearance, and are equal, if not superior, in laying qualities. They also appear to be both hardy and healthy.

I see, by footing up my store book from April last to December first, that from forty hens, in three different locations, yet contiguous, I have sold 2,940 eggs, besides using freely for cooking in my family, &c. Two-thirds of the time, the hens were not fed, but unrestrained as to roving, having the use of the barn and range of the farm. I also sold last fall, $7 worth of males for killing, which grieved me to see so many beautiful birds cooped up at once; for had they been scattered among farmers, they would have done an immense deal of good.

TONQUIN FOWLS.

This breed is among the undescribed fowls in the books on the subject. I know nothing in regard to them, except the following:

Mr. Miner,—I consider Tonquins far superior to the Dorkings. They are larger, and will lay nearly twice as many eggs before sitting. There are two varieties—white and speckled. They are muffled, and generally have five toes. The cock, when grown, will weigh ten pounds, the hen, six pounds. This fowl is fine for table purposes; flesh, very white. Chicks, easily raised.

GEO. A. SMITH.

Macon, Geo.

The following is selected from the "Old Colony Memorial:"

The Tonquins are very handsome fowls, and are usually five-toed, tall, and well proportioned. In color, they are not uniform, being sometimes white and sometimes variegated. They have a rose-comb, medium wattles, and are frequently muffled, but free from top-knot. The tail of these birds is shorter, and their legs are longer than those of the Dorking, and they do not unfrequently resemble them in color. They are surpassingly excellent table fowls, their flesh being abundant, white, and juicy. They are very superior layers of large and well-flavored eggs. Mr. J. J. Nolan, of Dublin, in his great work on "Domestic Fowl," &c., says: "the Dorking does not come to full growth till two years old," and the remark is equally true of the Tonquin, and all other large fowls, though they are fit for market at six months old, frequently attaining a weight of eight pounds at that age. Their usual weight at maturity, is from seven to ten pounds each. Their chickens are easily reared, and they are healthy, and stand this climate better than other chickens that feather at so early an age. As these fowls have great abundance of flesh, and very small offal, none are better calculated to add to the profits of the farm-yard, and, very few surpass them in beauty. They are well calculated for emasculation, and are amongst the easiest fowls fatted. These are birds of unflinching courage, and eager for the combat, and

in this respect, and the fine and savory quality of their flesh, they closely resemble the famous Sumatra Game. The imported Tonquins are in my possession, but no others of this excellent breed are to be found in America, except those owned by Mr. George A. Smith, of Georgia, who has one of the most extensive varieties of pure blooded imported fowls in the country.

SILKY FOWLS.

These are a singular bird, and another specimen of Nature's curious freaks among the feathered races. They are covered with down, somewhat resembling silk in its raw state. Mr. Bement, in his Poulterer's Companion, says:

This bird by modern writers, is considered a species, rather than a variety. It is of good size, and the whole body is covered with feathers, the webs of which are disunited, somewhat in the manner of some of the feathers of the ostrich and the peacock, and appear some like hairs and glossy silk. The legs are covered on the outside to the toes. Individuals of this sort differ in respect to color as in other varieties; some are pure white, and others of a dingy brown; and all of them with dark-colored legs; nor are the legs always feathered. The bird is indigenous in Japan, where it is much prized, and is also found in China, where they are frequently offered in cages for sale to the Europeans. The skin and bones are said to be black, which gives it when cooked, an unfavorable appearance, on which account it is in disrepute.

Some splendid specimens of the white Silky Fowl were exhibited at the Fair of the New England Poultry Society, at Boston, September 1852.

SIR JOHN SEABRIGHT BANTAMS.

Having given descriptions of all the larger breeds of fowls, that I consider important to the practical fowl breeder, I close with the most diminutive race, the Bantams. The Seabright Bantams derive their name from Sir John Seabright, the original importer into England, and for beauty, are, perhaps, unequaled by any other variety. They now command the highest price of any Bantams in this country—selling at $15 to $25 a pair. I do not own any, but have negociated for some, to be received in 1853. There are two varieties of the Seabright Bantams, the gold and the silver laced. Mr. Giles' are the silver laced. So Dr. Bennett says, but none the worse for that, I presume. Mr. Giles writes me as follows:

The Seabright Bantams are the most beautiful of all the puny tribes of poultry. The cocks are splendid little fellows, and will weigh when full grown, about twelve to sixteen ounces; the hens weigh from eight to twelve ounces. The ground-color of their plumage is cream or orange brown. Those having the orange color are called the *Golden* Seabrights; and the cream-colored, the *Silver* Seabrights. The outer edge of every feather is beautifully penciled with black, with the most perfect uniformity. The cock is hentailed, and free from hackle. This breed is perfectly clean legged. The hens lay abundantly, and are good sitters and mothers.

As late as 1847, fowls of this breed were sold in England for £50 ($250,) per pair; and now, in this country, they readily command $25 per pair. As to whether they are really worth that amount of money, is a question which fanciers and anxious purchasers must settle among themselves.

I am yours respectfully, JOHN GILES.

COL. MARK NOBLE'S BANTAMS.

The above are portraits from life of Col. Noble's Golden Laced Seabright Bantams, whose stock is known to be equal, if not superior to any other Bantams in this country. They are of his own importing, and are said to be the best that England can produce. I am to receive an importation from the same English stock, previously alluded to. Gentlemen who have seen these fowls in Col. Noble's yards, assure me that they excel any thing in the Bantam line ever before imported. They were secured through Dr. Bennett's influence, as the following letter shows:

Col. Mark Noble,—In giving you a history of your imported Seabright Bantams, I cannot do better than to quote the exact language of Mrs. S. H. Hosier Williams, of Eaton Mascott, W. Shrewsbury, England, in a letter to me of Dec. 24th, 1852. Mrs. Williams says:

"By the same ship, I shall also send, pursuant to your orders, three pairs of very first rate Seabright Bantams—the golden sort—as good as they can possibly be had. The Silver Seabrights you asked for, are at present unattainable. The breed seems extinct. There were

only three or four very indifferent specimens shown at Birmingham, but these are the very best to be had. I had the parents of these Bantams from *Sir J. Seabright himself*, and every year I take a prize for them at Birmingham, also at Halifax, and every where they have been shown. I sell them at £3, 3s. the pair, and have had much trouble to secure these for you, so numerous are the applications for them."

Thus, my dear Colonel, I have succeeded in securing some of Sir John Seabright's best stock of Bantams, through the agency of Mrs. S. H. Hosier Williams, one of the most successful and intelligent breeders of the feathered race in England. Her stock, and that of her friend, Wm. Cust Gwynne, M. D., of Sandbach, Cheshire, England, cannot be excelled by any in the world. The first Brahma Pootra fowls I shipped to England were sent to Mrs. Williams and Dr. Gwynne. Your Seabright Bantams are of *the best* gold laced Seabrights ever imported, and equal in all respects to the celebrated silver laced imported Seabrights of John Giles, Esq., of Providence. One of my other pairs died on the passage over, and the other pair, just like yours, I sold to George Smith, Esq., of Valley Falls, R. I. Yours is *the old pair*, and consequently much better to breed from than younger ones, as the progeny will be much more vigorous and valuable. On this account I must charge you $10 more than I do Mr. Smith, and shall claim from you an extra pair from these truly magnificent birds.

Yours respectfully, JOHN C. BENNETT.

Fort des Moines, Iowa.

Dixon says, in reference to the cocks of this breed:

His coat is of a rich, brownish yellow; almost every feather is edged with a border of a darker hue, approaching to black. His neat, slim legs, are of a light, dull lead color; his ample tail is carried well over his back. His dependent wings nearly touch the ground. He is as upright as the stiffest drilled sergeant, or more so, for he appears now and then as if he would fall backwards, like a horse that overrears himself. His full, rose-comb, and deep depending wattles, are plump and red; but their disproportionate size affords a most unfortunate hold for the beak of his adversary; but he cares not for that —a little glory is worth a good deal of pecking and pinching, and it is not a slight punishment, nor a merely occasional infliction of it, that will make him give in. The great hens, too, that look down upon him, and over him, think proper to battle with him on a first introduction, though they afterwards find out that they might as well have received him in a more feminine style."

A writer in one of the public journals humorously gives the following description:

The hens are rather smaller in proportion to the cock, than usual among the Bantams, but their plumage is nearly the same; they are good layers,-steady sitters, and most kind and affectionate mothers. The chicks are dark brown when first hatched, and hardy and easily raised.

The Seabright Bantams may be well called the minikin of fowls. Their diminutive size is really extraordinary. We have occasionally seen them not much larger than a pouter pigeon. In passing an aviary, not long since, where they are kept, we were quite amused at the colloquy of a countryman—a green arrival from Yankeedom. A proud, high-spirited little fellow, perched on the top of a coop, was crowing away to every passer-by, lustily, enough, "Cock-a-doo-dle-du-u-e." "Why, you don't say so," said he, arrested with evident surprise at the shrill, consequential challenge of Mr. Minikin. "Now, du tell, will yer, my little bossy calf, whether you ra-ally be a rooster or a quail?" "Cock-a-doo-dle-doo," and a smart, proud flap of the wings, with a comical wink of the eye, was the gallant Seabright's prompt reply. "Oh, ho! then you be a ra-al rooster man, hey? Why, I kinder thought, like Gineral Tom thumb, you had just cleared your shell, and been stuck over with feathers, to make a show here, you little winky—" "Cock-a-doo-dle-doo, cur-ragh-r-r-r," with a ruffle of his hackle feathers, showing fight, was Sir Bantam's bold response. "What's that you say, Mr. Peppercorn?—and mighty little at that," continued Greeny, knocking off his hat, and stooping down, with his hand on his knees, and laughing contemptuously in Seabright's face. As quick as thought, the Bantam jumped and caught him by the fore-top, and commenced whipping him over the eyes with his wings, greatly to the countryman's annoyance, and the amusement of a crowd of spectators. However, nothing daunted, Mr. Not-quite-so-greeny-now, gently closed the Bantam's wings, took him in his hands, and holding him up admiringly at arm's length, exclaimed, "Wal, you be *some* in spunk, anyhow, old feller, mighty little as I took you for in body. So I guess I'll buy you and wifey too; I've long wanted sumthin' to clear my farm of hawks and eagles, and I guess now you'll do it for me, old war hoss, and no mistake—I'm sartain ye would if you was oney half as stout as ye be brave." So without the slightest hesitation, he paid the high price asked for the pair, chuckling as he did it, half as loud as the Bantam had crowed, and walked rapidly off with his fowls, and we saw no more of him.

Nolan, the Irish author, thus describes them:

The Seabright Bantam, or Seabright Jungle Fowl, takes precedence of the whole puny tribe for beauty of plumage, strut, demeanor, and pugnacity. They are splendidly marked, the ground of the feathers being either a rich, orange brown, or cream color, and each feather penciled round with black, or dark brown, with the greatest uniformity. They are said to have been brought by the late Sir John Seabright, M. P. for Herts, from India, and have frequently been exhibited in London; for beauty of plumage, and, indeed, if well bred, and perfect in their markings, nothing can exceed them. The regulations of the Society of London Amateurs, require that each exhibitor shall offer his birds for sale, after the exhibition, and may bid himself, and put on a prohibitory amount of purchase money. It is on record that Sir John bid up one of his diminutive hens to £29, and bought her in at that price. And it is recorded in the Illustrated London News, of 20th February, 1847, that so late as that date, two

hens and a cock, of these beautiful emblems of pride and consequence, sold for £50 and 1s., being a shilling more than the amount put on them by their owner. At the sale of the late lamented baronet, the golden grounded birds averaged £6 a brace, and the silver spangled £8 a brace; although they are becoming comparatively abundant, they still keep up a high price in the London market, if well marked. There has been lately offered here, some fine specimens, from Sir John's own stock, at a very low figure. I do not think anything could exceed their perfection of feather. A lady near Shrewsbury has procured some fine specimens of both gold and silver spangled, from this neighborhood; if she still retain them, I think she may challenge England. As far as I can judge, they are quite superior to those that took the prize in London. Some ladies in the Queen's County, have procured fine specimens from the late baronet's stock; I have no doubt but under their fostering care, the breed will be kept up with as much ardor as during the lifetime of the great poultry patron, Sir John, and that we will be breeding them, as in the baronet's lifetime, "to a single feather," and retain their character of the "prettiest of domestic birds." The male birds should stand about twelve inches high; the standard weight being twenty-two ounces; the plumage as above described; the rose-comb is preferred; the wattles are moderately long; face and throat bare; no top-knot or ruff on the neck; as free as possible from hackle; tail, without the plume, or what is called hen-tailed; perfectly clean-legged. The hens are abundant layers, and though it is said there is a difficulty in rearing their chickens, my patrons have been successful in that way. Both flesh and eggs are said to be of fine flavor; although scarcely ever without the birds, I have not had the good fortune to taste their flesh, but have no hesitation, from the report of others, in pronouncing it delicate. The Bantams take their name from a country on the N. W. coast of Java, once populous and flourishing, but now miserably deserted, its commerce being transferred to Batavia.

There are several varieties of the Bantam, in addition to the above —the black-breasted red, black, Nankin, white, and booted. The black-breasted red, if denuded of his comb and gills, is a complete miniature representative of our Game cock. I had a beauty of this sort, that used to put dogs and fowl to the route, and had the temerity to quarrel with a Peregrine Falcon for his food, but unfortunately, suffered decapitation for his presumption. This is the nearest approach to the Bankiva Cock, or wild cock of Java, and so like, in some individuals, as to be difficult to distinguish them. The black variety has all the pugnacity of its congeners. The whole of the clean-legged tribe are recommended as good mothers; I have reared all our usual sorts of pheasants, most successfully, by them. The Nankins are those in use in the great aviary of the Earl of Derby, for hatching out the various sorts of quail, partridge, and pheasants, to which Mr. Thompson has added Cantelo's Incubator, and no one in Britain can boast of so much success or experience, as that experienced ornithologist. The white are precisely the same as the others, only varying in color. James Walter, of Windsor, gives a rather unflattering account of their destroying their eggs; I have kept them, and never discovered it.

The Booted, or Feather-legged Bantam, should not escape our notice. They are of all colors; those with the greatest quantity of feathers on the legs, are usually spotted, red, black, and white. I have seen them with feathers three inches long on their legs, so as to impede their walking. They are becoming scarce, and even promise, if not rescued, to become extinct; the objection of the fanciers is, that their boots, getting damp, are apt to addle the eggs put under them for incubation. They, however, have their advantages, as they seldom do an injury by scratching, and are frequently kept as ornamental pets about a garden.

BLACK SPANISH AND BANTAM COCKS.

The above are portraits of fowls owned by Mr. Edward Aborn, Providence, R. I. He has coupled the two breeds in the cut, and the description must consequently follow for both here. He writes me:

The above cuts represent my Black Spanish and Black Bantam cocks.

The Black Spanish is one of the very best fowls we have, either for laying, or for their table qualities. The comb of the cock of this breed is very large, deeply serrated, and of a bright scarlet; the wattles long, which, with the large white ear lobes, or cheek pieces, afford a beautiful contrast with their glossy, black plumage.

The legs of the pure *Black Spanish* are always *blue*. The comb of the hen, instead of being erect like the cock's, falls over one side, and the white cheek pieces are not so large. They are layers of the first order, laying quite large white eggs, two being equal in weight to three Shanghae eggs. They are seldom, if ever, inclined to set.

The Black Bantam cock is a proud little fellow, bearing a strong

resemblance to the Black Spanish. His plumage is jet black; comb, single and serrated; cheeks, white; legs smooth and blue. They are first rate layers; eggs, small, but very rich in their flavor.

The Black Bantam has quite an attractive form. His plumage, distinguished for its lustre, his comb, of rosy hue, his eye, fearless and impudent, his tail, full and flowing, and his self-complacent gait, mark him as a beautiful example of a noble spirit in a little body. The hens are less distinguished for their form, and are inferior in capacity. Yet they have the credit of being good layers, and of fulfilling their maternal duties well. They are not fond of wandering away from home, nor of mingling in the company of other hens in the neighborhood. They are easily kept in the range of the barn-yard, and are useful in destroying numerous insects that fall in their way. The Black Bantam produces eggs that are smooth, and of a buff color, and are pronounced to be of better flavor, than those of larger fowls.

Their chicks, when hatched, are quite small and tender; the eyes, feet, and legs, are black; but when they are full grown, and covered with plumes, they are found not to be more feeble and tender than those of many other breeds. The warm season of summer is considered the best for raising the Bantam chickens, as they are not at first fitted to endure the cool and chilly air of spring. It is considered good policy to keep the Bantam cock from mingling with other kinds of domestic fowls, if one is desirous of rearing a plenty of chickens, or of securing a great quantity of eggs.

WHITE BANTAMS.

The white Bantams are somewhat larger than other varieties, some being half the size of common fowls, and others being nearly as small as Seabright's, and other breeds. They are a pure white, and possess the general characteristics of the race

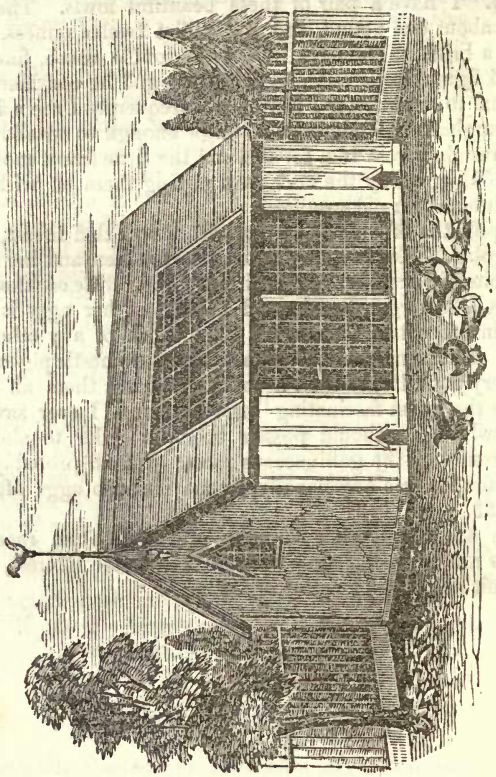
SIBERIAN BANTAMS.

This is a rare breed, having been brought, it is said, from the southern border of Siberia, where the severe cold weather dwindles all animal life to its smallest capacity. They must, consequently, be very hardy, and able to withstand severe cold

weather. I have a pair of these beautiful fowls. The cock weighs about one pound, and the pullet twelve ounces. The cock is a brilliant chestnut hue, with double comb, fine symmetrical figure, large tail, comparatively, and he considers himself equal to any rooster I have; and frequently I see a Hoang Ho, Shanghae, or Brahma cock, large enough to swallow him whole, running from him for life, and the little fellow mounting them, holding on by the neck, and paying them off with compound interest for old grudges.

The pullet is of a dark brown, with a speckled breast, like a young robin. Her form is that of a perfect hen, and her nature and habits are precisely like ordinary fowls. She cackles when she lays, like larger breeds, and the size of her eggs is much larger, in proportion to her size, than those of any other fowl known. She is not so large as a common domestic pigeon, and but a very little larger than a robin. Taking them all in all, they are the most fascinating little creatures I ever saw, and every fowl fancier should possess them, in order to show the two extremes of the gallinaceous races. I shall probably offer a few pairs for sale occasionally, or may furnish eggs after the year 1853.

There are some other varieties of the Bantam race—the *Creepers* are one—but they are not of especial interest, and I shall omit any further notice of them.



POULTRY HOUSE.

POULTRY HOUSES.

The principal considerations in a good Poultry House, are warmth, light, and ventilation. Warm in winter, because fowls will require less food, will be healthier, and will lay more eggs. Ventilated in summer, and in mild winter weather, because fresh air is absolutely essential to all animated nature, and particularly to the dung-hill fowl. Well lighted, because the fowls delight to be in a cheerful place, and to bask in sunshine admitted through the windows of their tenements in cold weather. What the best form or style is for a poultry house,

is not, perhaps, for any one to define with unerring precision, any more than to define the exact style for all family dwellings. In the first place, the number of fowls kept should decide the proper size of the building—not the number kept over winter, but the number that may be kept in the fall, after the young broods have matured, or grown to a marketable size. The next question is—how large a building is required for twenty-five, fifty, or one hundred fowls? That will depend on the breed of fowls. Fifty fowls of some breeds, will require as much space as one hundred of some other breed, and then the question arises—how close will it answer to crowd them upon their roosts? My opinion is, that we should have as many *feet* of perches, as we have fowls of any breed. Then comes up the query—can we place perches, one above the other, so as to accommodate a large number of fowls in a small building? I answer, yes, it can be done, but it is not very good policy. I think that nothing is gained by such a course, and frequently great losses will be sustained, when diseases attack the fowls, of a contagious character. A building twenty feet long, may very well have two perches running the entire length without detriment to the health of the fowls, but more than two I cannot recommend. These perches should be of the same height, as fowls will always strive to gain the highest, when one perch is above the other. I have used perches in the shape of an inclined ladder, with five or six bars to roost on, the foot perch being some six feet from the wall, and the others rising at an angle, each back of its lower neighbor, so far as to admit the manure voided by fowls on one perch, from dropping on those immediately below them; but the fowls will not, in all cases, sit with their heads the same way, consequently this system is objectionable on that account, and also on account of the strife that will exist, to some extent, to gain the upper perches.

In building a poultry house, *convenience* should be one of your first objects. You should have it so arranged, that your roosting perches shall not be near your nest boxes, and you should have an apartment for grain, either in the same building, or in another, near at hand. You should have bins made, rat proof, one for corn, one for oats, and one for buckwheat, or some other grain; and if you keep many fowls, a kettle should be set to boil vegetables, to be mixed with meal for your fowls. All of these may be under the same roof, if you please, to good advantage, or in an adjoining building.

Particular care should be taken to afford the utmost ventilation of your poultry house in *summer*, by windows on two sides, at least, to be of sufficient size to allow a perfect renovation of the air within. Iron bars may be inserted, to protect your fowls from depredators at night. I shall give the opinions of several gentlemen, skilled in the science of *henology*, and I will commence with some good suggestions from the "Journal of Agriculture," which embody a description of the foregoing poultry house, as here shown by the engraving:

POULTRY HOUSES.—When a man is bent on matrimony, he oftentimes takes it into serious consideration, whether it be the better for him to build the cage first, or first to procure the singing-bird that is to tenant it. But if any of our readers are attacked with the symptoms of hen-o-mania, we can, at once, advise them to build the cage first, and they can afterwards find a fowl to their taste.

As in the management of milch kine, so with fowls, it is as necessary to feed, and to quarter, and to care for your stock with judgment, as to select with judgment. An ordinary breed of hens, well housed, and well fed, will be of more profit to their owner, than a like number of neglected and forlorn biddies, who may come of the best laying tribe.

It becomes us, therefore, to build houses for our poultry, convenient for their habits, and convenient, also, for our own; for if the tending of any kind of stock is attended with too much trouble, they will oftentimes be neglected. In building, therefore, let the house be as handy for the hens, and as handy for yourself, as possible; and of the two, we would say in preference, make it handy for yourself. Let there be every convenience for feeding, and for cleansing and warming and ventilating, as the hour, or season of each comes round.

Let the bins which contain the grain for their food, be in the building, or they may, perhaps, occasionally lose a meal, when you are too tired to go after it. Let the facilities for cleansing their sleeping apartments be always at hand; or the atmosphere of their dormitory may chance to be often over-charged with ammonia. For the same reason, let your windows work easily.

Hens ars modest birds, and seek seclusion and privacy, while the symptoms of approaching egg-labor are strong upon them. It is thought by many, that the production of eggs, is, like the yielding of milk in a cow, somewhat under the control of the creature; if so, it becomes us to add every inducement to stimulate the instincts of nature; and coax a fowl to prolificity by consulting their tastes and whims, and making the nests as secret as possible.

We present here a representation and description of a poultry house erected by J. D. Bates, Esq., at his beautiful country seat at Phillips' Beach, a very well contrived and excellent edifice.

The frame of this poultry house consists of only the sill-plates and corner posts; the outside being formed of plank, tongued and grooved, set together with white lead. The furring is laid on the inside of the plank, and plastered. The inside of the roof is also plastered, and

the floor is laid in cement. Cement is much to be preferred to brick, being dryer, more close, and therefore less liable to be infected by vermin.

The general dimensions of the building are twenty-four feet long, thirteen feet wide, eight feet posts, and the roof is something more than half pitch.

The windows of the roof slide upon rollers. The two centre windows, in the front, slide right and left from the center, on rollers, and these two form the entrance, or door into the house. The two outside sashes are stationary. It will be seen that in each gable there are two small windows on hinges, swinging inward, to give additional ventilation when required.

The inside is divided, as shown in the ground plan, with a walk, or range, four feet wide, and extends the whole length of the building. A little more width would be preferable. The remaining part is divided into four compartments or coops. The front of the coops is formed of slats, extending from the roof to within two feet of the floor, and these two feet finished with slats also, laid in diamonds. The doors are also made in the same style, and slide up with balance weights. The coops are divided with slats in the same manner. These slats are but one inch and a half wide.

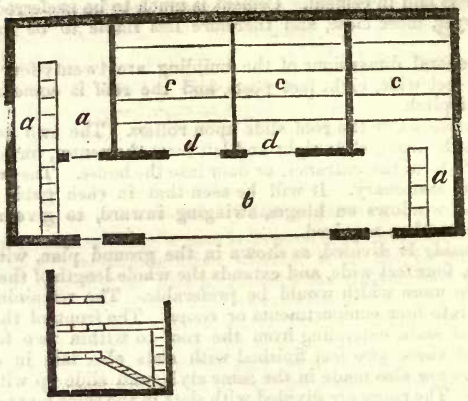
The laying nests consist of three ranges—nine nests in each range—and commence two feet from the floor. There are twenty-seven nests on the left hand side, and twelve on the other side. They are one foot square in the clear. Behind the nests is an alley, or walk, extending the whole length, from which the hens enter the nests. The floors of the nests, and the walks, are made of slats, three-fourths of an inch apart, to allow air to circulate, and to prevent the collection of dirt.

One of the great troubles in constructing laying nests, is to prevent the accumulation of vermin and other filth. If common American tobacco, wrapped in coarse brown paper, in a compact form, is placed in the nests, allowing two papers to each nest; it will be found a cheap and a sure way of preventing the propagation of vermin.

Great attention should be paid to the cleanliness of nests, and fresh hay should be placed in them every two weeks, and during the hot weather, oftener. These nests open in front, the door or lid, of which there is one for every two nests, hung upon hinges, falling downwards, with a brass catch spring to fasten, when closed.

Three of the coops have each four roosts, made of sassafras poles, and each coop is capable of comfortably containing forty fowls—the back one four feet from the floor, and the front one two feet. The other coop, on the left hand side, is appropriated to the nests, and room for the fowls to get access to and from them.

The small cut represents a profile view of the laying room, showing the three ranges of nest; to the first and second of which the hens mount by small fixed ladders, eight inches wide, with octagon slats three inches apart. From the shelf, which extends to the top of the ladder, the hens may readily jump to the third range.



Explanation of the Ground Plan.—*a* represents the laying room and alleys or ranges behind the nests; *b* represents the general range or walk which extends the whole length of the building; *c* represents the coops and roosting compartments; *d* represents the sliding doors, by which there is an entrance to the coops. There are sliding doors to each compartment.

POULTRY HOUSES.—I noticed a sketch from a correspondent, relative to building hen houses contiguous to horse stables, or having hens roost near horses; which plan he disapproved of on account of his horse obtaining lice from the hens, and the difficulty he experienced in removing them. My experience convinces me that horses and cattle will become lousy in that way. In my barn, my fowls roosted where I stabled my colts and calves, and they soon became lousy, while in another barn, where I stabled my work horses, not a louse could be found. I searched the Rural for a remedy, and found that the correspondent to whom I have referred, after trying various remedies, washed his horse with soap suds, and made an application of one gallon of rum. Not being much of a friend to rum, or any of the family, whether used internally or externally, I consulted the hens for a remedy, and found that nature had furnished one, and that is by wallowing in the sand—in this way they rid themselves of these troublesome vermin. I therefore took a quantity of sand, dried it thoroughly in a stove oven, then sprinkled it freely in among the hair two or three times a week, until the lice were removed. What particular effect it has upon them, I cannot say, but they don't seem to like having dust thrown into their eyes in this way, and they evacuate.

By the above, any farmer can see the necessity, of building a house on purpose for his fowls, and if they are properly cared for, they will amply compensate the expense and trouble in eggs, and the guano which may be made from their droppings. While writing about fowls,

I will state another fact that has come under my observation, viz: that fowls will eat pumpkin seeds, and that it will have a singular effect upon them; they lose the use of their legs, tumble over backwards, and some will soon die, others, with proper care, live.—[There must be a mistake in this assertion, I think.—AUTHOR.] This has been the case with one of my neighbor's ducks, the same with the geese of another, the experience of "A Subscriber," to the contrary notwithstanding.—*Selected.*

THE HENERY.—Your correspondent J. R. M., who inquires for the best plan for a hen-house, is reminded, that the one given in the Cultivator for December 18th, is merely a house for roosting and laying, and that it may admit of being fumigated to destroy the vermin that will be sure to infest his fowls in hot weather, however careful and cleanly he might be, it must be built so as to be nearly air-tight when all the apertures are closed; and then, a small quantity of sulphur and saltpetre, well mixed together, placed upon a shovel, or iron plate, and ignited by a match, will be found to rid the house of all the vermin that it might contain, at a blow. But after this roosting and laying house, he will find it quite expedient to erect a shed or house near by, as a promenade for the poultry in wet or stormy weather, for they will not use the roosting-place for this purpose, if any other is to be had, as they never enter such house in the day time, except for the purpose of laying. And here let me perform an act of justice, in saying, one of the most convenient establishments for poultry that I ever saw, was at the farm of Mr. Bement, near Albany. I call it an establishment, for in a comparatively small space, was contained a yard, promenade, roosting and laying house, shelter, shade, and dusting beds, feeding and watering troughs, &c., that left nothing wanting. Let me try and give somewhat the dimensions. The yard, of circular form—say about half an acre of land—was fenced about with pickets six feet in height, and planted around close to the fence inside—with a cluster in the middle—with evergreens. Here the fowls resorted in hot weather, and made their dusting holes amongst sand, gravel, &c., to their heart's content. And adjoining this yard, was a building two stories in height, say about fourteen feet square, facing the south, one-half the lower floor being devoted to feeding and watering the stock, with boxes of ashes, sand, lime, oyster-shells, &c., and the other fitted up as a roosting and laying apartment, while the whole of the upper story, or second floor, was their promenade in wet or stormy weather, with windows, either to shut or open. And I remember, the house was surmounted with a cupola and vane; the latter, an excellent effigy of a rooster in full crow, the whole forming the prettiest "turnout" that I ever witnessed—in short, just such a one as I intend to build the coming spring, for my family of Shanghaes.—*Selected.*

HENERY.—One thing is, to have a well arranged *henery*—a place where the fowls can feel comfortable, and at home. And they like a large yard, where they can enjoy the sun, and the air, and have fresh earth to scratch in. And they should have plenty of pure water

every day, to drink. And too many confined in one place, will not do well—they will become poor and lousy. In the place where they have their nests, there should be a plenty of straw or hay, and this should be frequently cleaned out, and a new supply furnished, and as the fowls cannot do this for themselves, I expect the boys will do it for them. And twice a day they should be fed, *plentifully*, with corn, or something else; and fresh lime thrown into the yard, will do them good; and fresh meat, cut fine, is very acceptable, when the ground is frozen for fowls like insects and worms, and when they can get at them, they are first rate, but when they can get no food of that kind, they should have fresh meat, and they will pay well for it in eggs, which you know, will always bring money in market.—*Selected.*

Fowl House.—Being about to erect a domicile for the accommodation of my golden top-knots, I have looked through the American Poulterer's Companion in vain for a plan, that in all particulars suited my taste and ideas of what would be most agreeable to them, for I conceive taste and utility are not incompatible, even in a hen-house. I have, therefore, made a plan to suit myself.

This poultry house will accommodate one hundred fowls in stormy weather. It is built on the side of a bank, fronting the south. The posts of the centre building are eight feet; those of the wings, or storm-houses, six feet front, and four and a half feet rear; the depth, twelve feet, and the front of centre and wings, twelve feet each, being just the length of the boards; the whole is well thatched. The roof of the nest house extends over the passage to the front, so that the droppings fall into the boxes placed outside of it for that purpose. The slat window in the gable is the ventilator. One, or both of the wings may be omitted, depending upon the wants or taste of the builder. Cost, about $25, if built of rough boards.

If not built against a bank, I would have a cellar under one of the wings, for the laying hens in the winter; and instead of contiguous boxes, as is the usual practice, I am satisfied single boxes distributed about the house are altogether preferable. I prefer single nests to clusters.—*Selected.*

Poultry House.—In order to the profitable keeping of fowls, it is indispensable that they should be properly lodged, and that such conveniences should be provided for them, as will secure their comfort and health. Every collection of poultry requires some place to be provided for them, to secure these advantages. Often they are left to take care of themselves, and roaming at large over the farm, or about a smaller premises, they become at last burdensome to themselves, unprofitable to the proprietor, and a nuisance to the neighborhood. A certain degree of confinement is therefore necessary for fowls. Close confinement, however, will, in a degree, prevent them from laying, and destroy their health. A yard or walk, connected with a place for shelter and roosting, is what is required.

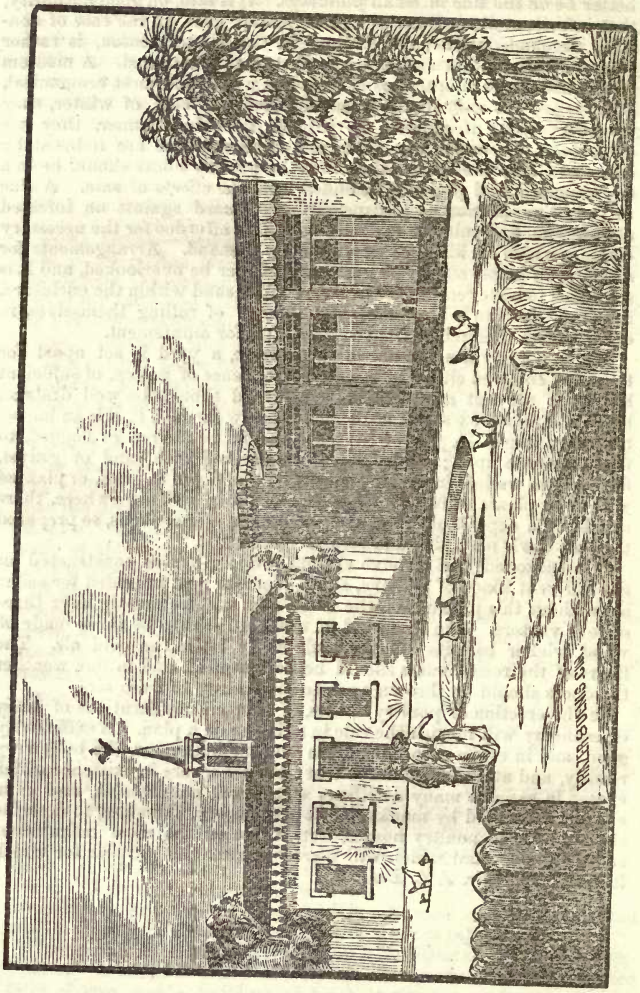
Care should be taken in fixing upon a situation for these accommodations. A south or south-easterly exposure is the most proper place to be chosen and a building of brick or stone is preferable to one built of wood. The extent of the place should be proportioned to the

number of fowls kept; and if any error is to be tolerated, it might better be on the side of small buildings. It is said, on good authority, that infectious diseases are not to be feared, even in the case of confined accommodations; and laying, in the winter season, is rather promoted than otherwise, when fowls are thus situated. A medium course should be adopted, as at once the wisest and most economical. If fowls are not sufficiently defended from the cold of winter, they become torpid; if exposed to intense heat in summer, they are enfeebled. To avoid the numerous diseases which are induced by dampness, care should be taken that the poultry house should be in a dry situation, and properly defended from the effects of rain. A due regard to ventilation is indispensable to guard against an infected atmosphere, and suitable facilities should be afforded for the necessary exercise which all kinds of poultry daily demand. Arrangements for securing an ample supply of water must never be overlooked, and it is advisable to have receptacles of ashes or dry sand within the enclosure, in which the fowls may enjoy the luxury of rolling themselves, in order to free themselves from vermin, and for amusement.

When poultry are kept on a large scale, a yard is set apart for their use, enclosed either by a wall or by a fence of paling, of sufficient height to prevent any escape. This yard should be well drained, but if a stream of water can be made to flow through it, it is an important advantage. A part of the yard should be floored or flagged, to feed the fowls upon; a part should be covered with sand or gravel, for them to wallow in; a part should be laid down in grass, or planted with such plants as furnish them proper food; and somewhere, there should be a deposit of dry mortar, or broken oyster shells, so prepared that the fowls may pick and scratch amongst it.

It is reckoned best to have various roosting-houses constructed for the different kinds of poultry, and a separate nest provided for each; as, without this precaution, the same nest will frequently have three or four visitors. The best kind of nests are said to be those made of wood, wicker baskets being calculated to let in the cold air. The floors of the roost-houses should be kept sanded, and in fine weather the doors should be thrown open to give access to fresh air.

In the erection of poultry houses, of course, considerations of fancy or economy will furnish the rule in fixing upon a plan. A sufficiently good, and in every respect suitable poultry house, may be built very readily, and at an insignificant cost; but others are in existence which exceed in expense many dwellings considered comfortable, and even elegant, inhabited by mankind. It is necessary, therefore, to describe several sorts of poultry houses, from those on the most magnificent scale, down to that which will merely answer the purpose for which it is erected.—*Dr. J. C. Bennett.*



P. MELENDY'S POULTRY HOUSE.

The opposite engraving represents the poultry house of P. Melendy, Esq., of Mount Healthy, Hamilton Co., Ohio. He has furnished me with the following description, for this work:

My largest poultry house, which is here represented, is one hundred and twenty-four feet long, fourteen wide, and sixteen high—two stories. Besides which, I have one fifty feet long, ten wide, and ten high; and another twenty-four feet long, six wide, and eight high. They are constructed on what are considered the most approved plans; divided into several apartments for the different breeds, and for laying, hatching, etc. Three acres of ground are attached to the houses, divided into separate parks, for the several breeds, with a pond of water for the ducks and geese.

You ask how my stock have stood the cold winter. They have stood it well. The cold snap in January touched their combs a little, and I had common fowls frozen in the same house. I think if the foreign kinds can endure such cold as we had this winter, there need be no fears about their hardiness. My house has answered the purpose thus far admirably, and I have dispensed with the steam, or other artificial heat, this winter, believing that it would not be healthy for the fowls. It would be almost impossible to keep up an even temperature, and the changes from high to low, would be apt to give the fowls a cold. My plan is to keep them in the house in bad weather, let them out when it is dry, and feed them every night and morning. In this way, there need be no difficulty in having eggs all the year round.

In constructing a poultry house, let the front be towards the south or south-east, and the yard in front of the house, with sufficient slope to secure dryness. My plan would be to excavate three feet, and build of brick; but this would be expensive. If built of wood, it should be lathed and plastered inside. A house for, say three hundred hens, should be about fifty feet long, twelve feet wide, and ten feet high in front, sloping down to seven feet at the back. Make it two stories high, the lower one six feet in the clear, the balance for the roosts. The front wall should be as much of it glass as one can afford, the glass extending from within ten inches of the ground, to as near the roof. The main floor should not be boarded, but earth.

The roosts for the large breeds should be flat strips of board, four or six inches wide, and only two feet from the floor; for common breeds, as high as you please, and only two inches wide, or if you please, round poles, with ladders for them to ascend. Place a wide board underneath each roost, to catch the droppings, which can thus be removed with little labor every day, or as often as you choose. If suffered to accumulate, it makes the house unpleasant, and unhealthy for the fowls. The ammonia arising therefrom is thought to occasion the *roup*. This substance forms a most excellent and powerful manure, being real "home made *guano*." It is also used by tanners and morocco dressers, who willingly give fifty cents a bushel for it.

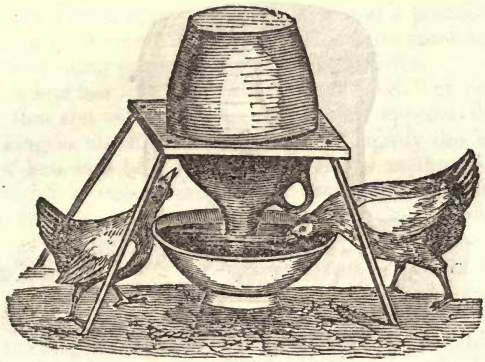
Ventilation must be provided for at the top of the house, or the fowls will not be healthy. The advantage of plastering the inside of the house is, that it gives little chance for vermin to harbor.

My plan for nests, is what is called the secret nest. It is well known that hens love to make their nests in a very secluded place, and this form of nest appears to gratify this propensity. They are made thus: Make a platform of boards, two feet wide, and say ten feet long, (or any length you choose,) fastened against the back wall of the building, about three feet from the ground; above and along the outer edge of this platform, nail a board on the edge, one foot wide, leaving an opening in the middle and at each end, eight or nine inches wide, and divide the remaining space into compartments a foot square. This leaves a passage way between the wall and nests, nearly a foot wide. Make a cover sloping from the wall, and so as to open with hinges. This affords easy means of examining, and at the same time as much secrecy as the hens seem to desire.

The yard for three hundred fowls should contain from one half to one acre, but if you have not the ground to spare, seventy-five by one hundred feet will answer. Have a part of the ground fresh dug up as often as once a week, when not frozen; and give the fowls gravel, broken oyster shells, crushed bones burnt, old lime, mortar, &c., and under cover place dry sand and ashes for them to roll and scratch in. Give them a variety of food, as corn, oats, wheat, barley, buckwheat, &c., and a little chopped meat.

Respectfully yours, &c., P. MELENDY.

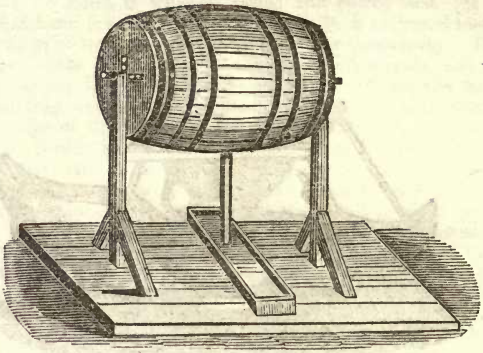
There are many other considerations pertaining to poultry houses that may be mentioned, but the most important points are touched in the preceding matter, and my limits will not admit of using more space on this subject. I will, however, call your particular attention to the fact, that all of our large breeds of fowls require perches not over eighteen inches or two feet high, and they must be *flat*, and about three inches wide.



WATER APPARATUS.

The above cut shows a very simple and good plan for watering fowls.

When water is placed in an open vessel, the daily supply, it is liable to become impure, from many fowls having access to it, but on the above plan, the impurities are constantly running away in the overflow of the bowl. A jug is used on this plan, that holds from one to two gallons, with an aperture in the cork, to allow a slow passage of the water, till the jug is emptied. A keg holding about a pail of water, with a faucet, would be better than the jug, I think—to be open at the top, and provided with a cover. A running stream of water, however, is preferable to all other ways of watering fowls.



DR. WIGHT'S APPARATUS.

This plan for watering fowls originated, as I understand, with Dr. Eben Wight. I received a brief description of it from Dr. W., which has been mislaid, but the plan shows for itself what it is, and how constructed. It appears that a keg is suspended, as shown in the cut, with an opening at the top to receive the water, large enough to receive the water direct from the pail, and which may be closed by a door hung on hinges.. A tube of some kind, either lead or wood, connects the keg with the trough below, and the water at the lower end of this tube is made to run out very slowly, so as not to exhaust the supply above short of twenty-four hours, when a new supply is furnished. By this means, the water is always pure in the trough.

A cheap conductor of the water from the keg to the trough, may be made of wood, square, with a small channel in the centre. A common water pail may be made to perform the office of this apparatus, by inserting a faucet in the side, near the bottom; then place it on a stool, with a bowl below to receive the water. The pail should be placed in the shade in warm weather, and covered.

INCUBATION.

Instead of going into an analysis of all the causes that produce a desire in hens to incubate, or sit, I shall simply

furnish a few matter-of-fact considerations that a practical work demands, and let others dwell at length on the more abstruse, and less interesting points to the practical breeder.

When a hen has laid her "litter" or "clutch" of eggs, we all know that she will desire to sit. There appears to be a word lacking in the English language to signify the number of eggs a hen lays before desiring to sit, as neither "*litter*" nor "*clutch*," is strictly proper, but used from necessity. If she is to be permitted to sit, she should be in a place where she will not be subject to intrusions from other hens, by laying in her nest, as eggs are frequently broken in the strife on such occasions. If, however, any liability exist of such results at all, it is best to mark the eggs with a lead pencil, on sitting the hen, by running a ring around each, and then, if other eggs be deposited in the nest, they can be easily detected.

In early spring, the nests for sitting hens should be made as warm as possible; but in summer, the reverse. A hen should never be suffered to sit in a place where the rays of the sun render the atmosphere insupportable to human beings, or nearly so, but should be well shaded, and have plenty of ventilation. In very warm weather, a hen will hatch more chicks if the nest be made in earth, than if made of hay or straw. It would be proper to place damp earth in their nest-boxes, scooped out in the form of a bowl, and packed firmly, over which a light covering of fine, short hay, should be laid.

The number of eggs to place under a hen, should always be in the ratio of the size of both hen and eggs. A common, small fowl can cover but *seven* eggs of the Brahma Pootra fowl, while a Brahma Pootra hen will cover *fifteen* or more eggs of the small breeds. It has been the custom, since the days of yore, to place an *odd* number of eggs under sitting hens, and the practice is founded on the fact, however singular it may be, that an *even* number will not fill a nest so proportionate, in its rotund form, as an *odd* number.

When many hens are sitting at the same time, they should be placed at such distances from each other, as to enable each fowl to know her own nest on all occasions when returning from her food and water. If care be not taken to guard against this evil, serious consequences to the eggs will occur, by two hens getting upon one nest, breaking a portion of the eggs, perhaps, while the eggs of the other nest are destroyed by exposure.

I think that I cannot serve the interests of my readers better

than by making a few judicious extracts from writers of acknowledged merit. I am not desirous of *appearing* to fill my treatise with a large portion of *original* matter, as some authors seem to have desired, while the greater portion thus appearing as original, is but a poor digest of the writings of others, the merit of which is often lost in the metamorphosis. I prefer to say what I have to say, in my own way, *then* to give you the *best* authorities, with no concealment of sources, and unless I greatly err, this is the only way in which a work of real merit can be produced on this subject. I am led to these remarks in consequence of finding much matter in the works now extant on poultry, that is assumed as the language and opinions of their authors, which is mostly a *re-hash* of the writings of certain foreign authors, dressed in an American garb. The reader will find nothing of that nature in the pages of this work, yet I claim no merit on the score of the *value* of my own opinions and views, but simply on the *frankness*, *candor*, and *undeceptive* manner in which it has been my aim to write and compile this Treatise. Nolan says:

You will recollect the eggs, to be productive, must be fresh, and not exposed to bad effluvia or moisture, and while collecting, previous to hatching, covered with bran. Some say pointed eggs produce cocks, and round ones, hens; and others, that if the vacancy caused by the air-bag, at the blunt end of the egg, appear to be a little on one side, it will produce a hen; if this vacancy be exactly in the centre, it will produce a cock. Not having faith in the above, I quote it for the advantage of those who may wish to test its authenticity. If fresh eggs are laid after the hen begins to sit, they should be forthwith removed, and if she break any of her clutch, they should be carefully cleaned away, and her feathers, if soiled by the broken egg, made perfectly clean. Old hens are, in general, better sitters than pullets, and middle-sized, plump hens, better than the very large ones. The clucking of the hen, when she has an inclination to sit, cannot be mistaken. It is best to have a few valueless eggs to put under a hen, for a few days, to ascertain if she will sit steadily, before you intrust a valuable clutch to her; when you do, give her the eggs intended to be hatched.

Most persons prefer an odd number, the odd egg being placed in the centre, and the rest round it—say seven, nine, eleven, thirteen—according to the size of the hen, extent of her wings, and season of the year.

If any eggs get cracked during incubation, a small portion of paper, pasted on the cracked part, has been found to be a perfect preservative. Experience has proved, that the closer you imitate nature, the more certain you will be to succeed. If a hen lay out, in a private place, she is likely to produce a chick from every egg. It is found that eggs set

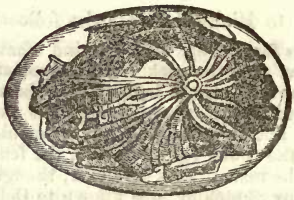
on the ground, in a soft, sandy spot, with some short-cut, clean straw, in a quiet situation, free from other poultry, succeed best; the evaporation from the ground seems necessary to the hatching, for the want of which, Mr. Cantelo recommends their being slightly damped with a sponge, on the top only, about mid-day, daily. After the tenth day, the eggs should be closely inspected, and those that have not germinated, removed; if any bad egg be discovered after this, it should likewise be withdrawn.

I am indebted to Richardson for the following useful hints:

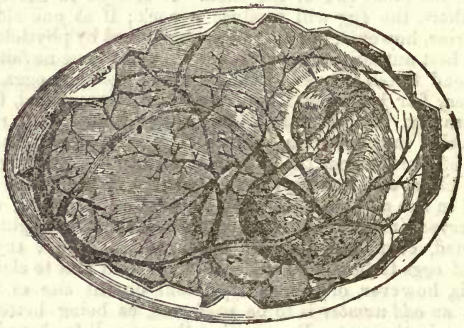
In selecting eggs for setting, bear in mind what I have said as to the number of hens that the cock should associate with, and choose such eggs as you have reason to believe have been rendered productive. Those of medium size, that is to say, the average size that the hen lays, are most apt to prove prolific. Sketchley tells us that he has always found the round egg to contain the female chick, and that of oblong shape, the male. This, however, though it may have been newly discovered by Sketchley, was known to Columella and Stephanus. If you examine the egg between your eye and a candle, you will be able to discern the position of the vacancy caused by the little air-bag at the blunt end of the shell. If this be in the centre, say these authors, the egg will produce a cock; if at one side, a hen. This doctrine, however, has long been abandoned by physiologists, and upon the best authority; nevertheless, though I have no faith in those who pretend to tell the sex of the chickens from the eggs, you may form a very fair judgment if your eggs are impregnated, from their specific gravity. Put them in a bowl of tepid water, and reject such as do not sink to the bottom. Choose also, such as present a marked disparity of size between the two ends; and while collecting, keep the eggs dry, clean, and in a well ventilated part of the house. Such as are equal in size at both ends, usually contain two yolks; and these, be it observed, instead of producing twin chickens, as might naturally be expected, commonly produce monstrosities; reject them. The number of eggs to be placed under a hen is from nine to eleven. The number is, however, of course, dependant on the size of both eggs and hen; an *odd number* is to be preferred, as being better adapted for *covering* in the nest. Be sure that they are all fresh, and carefully note down the day on which you place them beneath the hen. Never turn the eggs; the hen can do that better than you. About the twelfth day of incubation, you may be enabled to reject such eggs as are unfruitful. For this purpose, hold the egg beween your hands in the sunshine; if the shadow which it forms, waver, keep the egg, as the wavering of the shadow is occasioned by the motion of the chick within; if it remain stationary, throw it away. If your eggs have been recently laid, the chick will be developed earlier than otherwise; if they have been very fresh, you will, about the sixteenth day, if you apply your ear to the egg, hear a gentle piping noise within; if the eggs have been stale, this will not be perceptible until about the eighteenth day, and at this time the yolk, which had previously lain outside, and around the chicken, will be gradually entering into the body of the bird. This serves as nourishment to the little prisoner,

until his subsequent efforts shall have set him free. From this period let your attention be assiduous, but at the same time, *cautious*, for the hen has heard this cry before you have, and all her maternal anxieties and tenderness, are from that moment so greatly augmented, that any unnecessary interference will only tend to irritate her.

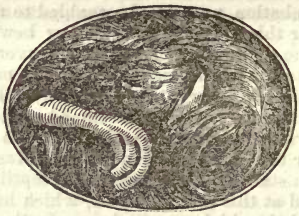
The following illustrations show the different stages of incubation of the egg:



FIRST STAGE OF INCUBATION.



MIDDLE STAGE OF INCUBATION.



CHICK JUST BEFORE HATCHING.

Rev. Mr. Dickson has given a very correct statement of the different degrees of development, which I annex:

At the end of the second day it assumes the form of a horse-shoe, but no red blood as yet is seen.

At the fiftieth hour, two vesicles of blood, the rudiments of the heart, may be distinguished, one resembling a noose folded down on itself, and pulsating distinctly.

At the end of seventy hours, the wings may be seen; and, in the head, the brain and the bill, in form of bubbles.

Towards the end of the fourth day, the heart is more completely formed; and, on the fifth day, the liver is observable.

At the end of a hundred and thirty hours, the first voluntary motion may be observed; in seven hours more, the lungs and stomach appear; and, in four hours after this, the intestines, the loins, and the upper jaw.

At the end of the one hundred and forty-fourth hour, two drops of blood are observable in the heart, which is also further developed.

On the seventh day, the brain exhibits some consistence.

At the hundred and ninetieth hour, the bill opens, and the muscular flesh appears on the breast; in four hours more, the breast-bone is seen, and, in six hours after this, the ribs may be observed forming from the back.

At the end of two hundred and thirty-six hours, the bill assumes a green color, and, if the chick be taken out of the egg, it will visibly move.

At two hundred and sixty-four hours, the eyes appear; at two hundred and eighty-eight hours, the ribs are perfect; and at three hundred and thirty-one hours, the spleen approaches near to the stomach, and the lungs to the chest.

At the end of three hundred and fifty-five hours, the bill frequently opens and shuts.

At the end of the eighteenth day, the first cry of the chicken is heard; and it gradually acquires more strength, till it is enabled, as we shall presently see, to release itself from confinement.

Some people, upon the eleventh or twelfth day, examine the eggs which have been sitten upon, to pick out the bad ones. With this view, they place the eggs on a drum, or between the hands, in the sunshine, and observe the shadow. If this wavers, by the motion of the chick, the eggs are good; if the shadow shows no motion, they throw them away.

At the expiration of six or eight days after setting a hen, the addled eggs may be known by holding each up, encircled by your hand, and one end held in close contact with the eye, while the other is held up in the range of the sun, the addled ones appearing transparent, and the fertile eggs quite black. This is a never failing test, and one that should always be resorted to, rather than run the risk of having your hens waste their time over unproductive eggs. Two or more hens should

be set at the same time, if possible, so that in case of their not being more than twelve or thirteen productive eggs under two hens, on making the test, all may be put under one hen, and the other broken up, as it is termed, from sitting. You may allow your hens to sit a few days on wooden eggs, or those that are addled, till two or more desire to sit, when all may be provided with eggs at the same time.

It is a practice with some breeders to remove the chicks from hens when hatched, and to give them a new sitting of eggs. This is done when they are desirous of raising some valuable breed of chicks to as great an extent as possible, and to get them out early. It is said that a hen will bear this double duty in the spring, without injury, but I hope the practice will be quite limited, and never adopted in the *summer*, when hens are debilitated and feverish.

The next question of primary importance in connection with incubation, is the method best adapted to "break up" a hen from sitting, when we do not desire to have her sit. If some inventive Yankee will make a discovery that shall do away with the trouble we are now subject to in such cases, he will be a public benefactor. There are many suggestions extant on this subject, but nothing is effectual, and of general application, but to confine the hens away from their nests for a few days. I have found that *three* days confinement is sufficient; and where many fowls are kept, there should be *three* separate yards, each provided with shelter, &c., and all hens desiring to sit on a certain day, should be confined in one yard; those desiring to set the next day, in the next yard, and so on. When the third yard receives its tenants, the first one may be vacated.

ARTIFICIAL INCUBATION.

In arranging the matter for this work, I have deemed it expedient to place all matter immediately connected with the fowl-house or yard, in a continuous position, as much as possible, without any regard to the arrangement of similar matter by other authors on this subject; and as Artificial Incubation is one of the branches of my subject, requiring an illustration in such connection, I subjoin the following interesting communication from Joseph S. Keen, Esq.:

WEST PHILADELPHIA, Pa., March 3d, 1853.

T. B. Miner, Esq.—Dear Sir: In November, 1851, not enjoying good health, I was induced to direct my mind to the raising of poultry, as an amusing employment, attended with a moderate degree of exercise, which would in all probability prolong my time with my family. I purchased three pairs of young Cochin China fowls, Victoria stock—three cocks and three pullets. I soon found (with proper attention,) that their precocity and prolific character, combined with hardiness, would require more extensive accommodations, one of the pullets being the *mother* of *eighty* chicks, *before* she was *a year old.* Of course, she did not *hatch* them *all,* though she laid *forty-four* eggs in *daily succession.*

I became convinced that there had not been sufficient attention given by the farmers to that branch of their business, or our country would have been much better supplied with poultry.

My *success* has induced several gentlemen to solicit me to give you a description, in detail, of my chicken establishment; also the result of my different experiments in hatching and rearing chickens by artificial means.

I will commence with my chicken houses. The west building is eleven feet square, sixteen feet high on the south side, and twelve feet on the north, with a cellar four feet deep; the whole divided into three stories; the basement, eight feet high; the next story, seven feet high, with a slanting ceiling, parallel to, and four feet below the roof; a passage four feet wide, partitioned off on the north side, with steps for the fowls to pass to the roosts, and also to the nests, which are situated (eighteen in number,) near the *middle* of the building—the best location to protect them from excessive heat or cold—the hens entering through holes in this partition, to the nests, the eggs being taken out from a passage on the other side, where there are small panes of glass set in each shutter that opens into the nests. This building is lighted and aired with windows in each story, on the south side; one window on the west, lighting the passage to the roosts, and one in the east end, near the ceiling, with a trap-door in the roof, for ventilation; which door is only partly lifted by means of a cord and pully attached to a covering over it. All the windows have glass, and open to give air, which is essential to the health of the fowls. Adjoining this, on the east, is a room for feed, five feet by eleven. Next to this is a building twenty-four feet by eleven, glass on the south, front, and east end, with glass roof, pitching to the south, with a passage way, two feet wide by three feet high, for the older fowls to go to the roosts and nests from an open shed east of this building. Next in order is a chicken house ten feet square, with roosts and nests, and a passage to take the eggs; one window in the south, with glass, one in the west, and one in the east side, for ventilation, with an open shed attached on the east side. Adjoining this on the east, is another chicken house, ten feet square, one window in the south, and one in the east, with glass, and one in the west, for ventilation. This house is divided into two apartments, one for the young cocks, the other for the young pullets, with an open shed

attached on the east. All the buildings have a sonth front, the whole extending east and west about one hundred and twenty feet, with a *separate* yard for each apartment, and a sliding door to open into a larger yard, shaded with trees. North of this range of buildings, is a duck yard and house; the lower part for ducks, the upper part for common chickens, with passage way to the nests, to take the eggs, with an open shed attached, and an artificial pond, supplied with water, by means of a pipe inserted into a wooden pump, six inches below the nozzle, that when the pump is used, a portion of the water runs into the pond, as well as distributes fresh water along the line, into the several chicken yards. In the duck yard are two kettles, holding about fifty gallons, to boil feed in for the ducks and chickens. All these buildings I have found *indispensable* in breeding the chickens *distinctly*, and without *mingling*.

My first experiment in hatching by artificial means, was with an Eccaleobeon, about four feet long, two feet high, and two feet deep, front to back; legs, twenty inches high, with four drawers, four inches deep, two feet square, placed near to one end; the drawers encompassed with a sheet of water three inches thick, connecting with a larger body, two feet square each way, through which a small iron stove passes, to heat the water. In the top drawer are two openings, one front, and one back, with valves, connected by a small iron shaft; in the front valve there is inserted a glass tube, with a bulb at each end, nearly filled with mercury, so regulated, that when too warm or too cool, the mercury will expand or contract, throwing the weight from one end of the valve to the other, opening or closing the valve, as required. This self-regulator of the heat in the drawers, removes the necessity of so close attention to the heat. I hatched eggs that had been partly under a hen, and produced the chickens from the first warming of the eggs, up to the eighteenth day, when the tin case sprang a leak, and all the water ran out; but I had sufficient evidence that the eggs would have hatched, had the case been made of copper, perfectly tight. I then had recourse to bricks, piled around the stove, in place of the water. I found the heated air would pass around the drawers as well as the water, and keep up a uniform heat that would have hatched eggs equally well, but attended with more personal care, which led me to experiment with horse-dung as a means of generating heat, which has resulted in perfect success, in producing fine healthy chickens in twenty-one days from the commencement of their heating. This mode will be more useful to the farmers, as they have the material at hand, and the only cost attending it would be a little labor, to accomplish the hatching of eggs to any desired extent.

This *Mammel*, (to use the Egyptian name,) I will now give a minute description of, that every farmer may build one for himself, and be able to perfect the hatching of eggs and rearing of chickens, without the aid of the hen.

It is a building thirteen feet by sixteen, with a tight, grooved partition dividing it into two apartments, the front one seven feet, the other nine feet. In this partition are two openings to receive the front ends of the ovens. These ovens are six and a half feet long,

two feet two inches wide, nineteen inches high on one side, and eighteen inches on the other, in the clear; back end closed, and made entire of inch boards; lined with tin, soldered water-tight, with shutters in two equal parts, hung to the bottom and in the middle with hinges, and buttons to close the front end. In the upper part of the shutter there are two sliding valves, each four inches by six, to give air, and regulate the heat. The outside of the ovens, and the partitions, should be well coated over with pitch, to exclude moisture, and preserve the wood from decay. The ovens should be placed eighteen inches above the ground, supported with posts at the back end, and four feet apart, with an open board partition, the boards running up and down, ten inches apart, to divide the dung between the ovens, and yet not entirely separate, so that in renewing the dug of *one* oven, the other may not be chilled. There should be a window in the back, to give air, and to receive the dung through. The dung should be such as is made in a well littered horse stable, and used, straw and dung mixed, and well watered while being thrown into a pile, where it is to remain twenty-four hours to soak, and admit the redundant water to pass off. It should be placed loosely around the ovens, which will not require renewing for two weeks; then only renew half the length of the oven at a time, judging from the heat when more of it is to be renewed, which will be required about every week. Tan will make a better bed under the oven than dung; the heat will last longer. The egg box, four feet long, two feet wide, three inches deep, lined with baize, ten inches of one end covered with wire, to keep in the chickens that are just hatched; the other part of the box should have a light frame, with twine placed between the eggs, and attached to the frame, to turn all the eggs at one time. The egg box rests on a carriage which runs on rails laid on the bottom of the oven, with a moveable attachment, to run the carriage entirely out of the oven. The egg box turns on a centre, to reverse the ends in the oven. The carriage is made in two parts; the lower part has sash pullies let into it, to roll on the rails; the upper part is connected to the lower with four small bars of iron, about eight inches long, with holes for a wood screw in each end, and the screws put into the top and bottom, when they lie together, (which moves like a parallel ruler,) and confined to different heights by a hook about ten inches long, fast to the upper part, and hooking into staples driven into a piece of wood running *along*, and fastened *to* the lower part. This arrangement is to sustain the egg box at different heights, to suit the required degree of heat, which I have found to be as near as it can be kept, to *one hundred and four degrees*, from the first to the last stage of successful hatching. My feed room can be made perfectly dark. Through one of the doors is a hole one and one-fourth inch in diameter, over which is a piece of cloth tacked, (an inch hole in it,) that will exclude all the light, except what passes through it, where can be seen the first progress of the chick, and in four days, *if there is no appearance of a chicken*, boil it for the young brood.

Next in order is the rearing of chickens without the aid of a mother. In the basement of the first named building, on a level with the top of the Eccaleobion, is a platform four feet by seven, with a slide to

open in fine weather, into a small yard, also one to open into a box with wire front, (over the Eccaleobion,) which is moderately heated from a small stove; in this box is an artificial mother, made of rabbit skins, (I have also one made of the skin of a fowl,) hung about two inches from the bottom, where the chicks are first placed; in three or four days they are let into an adjoining apartment, where there is a sheepskin mother; over this is another, with a sheepskin raised higher at one end than the other, for chickens further advanced to run under, with a small yard attached. In the glass building is a platform sixteen feet by four, about four feet above the ground floor, for chickens still further advanced, with a yard to it. They are next shut out from this apartment, and run with the full grown fowls.

All these apartments will accommodate about five hundred chickens, of the different ages. This mode of hatching and rearing them is attended with less than half the loss that usually takes place when hatched and reared by the hen. With regard to feed for the first two or three meals, I give grated stale wheat bread, laid on a *sanded* floor; next, I give bread boiled in milk, and while hot, mix coarse ground Indian meal with it, making it nearly dry. For the older fowls, I give wheat screenings and whole corn, with once a week boiled meat.

It will here be seen that I have made the management of eggs as plain and simple as Capt. Cooke did, "when he stood one on its point."

Yours, most respectfully, JOSEPH S. KEEN.

ECCALEOBION.—This is an apparatus put in operation some years ago, for artificial hatching. The name is of Greek origin, and signifies *to draw out life*. The chicks were hatched by means of heated air. The form of the apparatus was an oblong box three feet wide, nine feet long, and three feet high. It was successful, but not adapted to *cheap* and general *practical* incubation.

POLOTOKIAN.—Here is another "*jaw-cracking*" machine that Mr. E. Bayer, of Brooklyn, N. Y., put in operation in 1843, and succeeded very well in the process of hatching, not loosing over twenty-five per cent. of the eggs. The temperature best adapted to hatching, he found to be from 101° to 102° F. He applied heated air.

AMERICAN EGG-HATCHING MACHINE.—Some six years ago, a machine was exhibited in the city of New York, under the above name. It was constructed of tin, with an incubating chamber surrounded by water of a suitable temperature, kept warm by a spirit lamp, at a cost, it is said, of less than ten cents a day! It was about two and a half feet in length and breadth,

and three feet high, and was said to be capable of hatching five hundred chickens at a time, with a loss of only two per cent., if the eggs were fresh and impregnated. I saw it in operation there, with a large number of chickens just hatched out. It was worth seeing, as an object of curiosity, but it was not adapted to general use, as the chicks hatched in it were not as hardy as those hatched under hens. Nor will *any* apparatus be produced, in my opinion, that shall not be objectionable on account of the delicacy of the chicks produced. It will do very well to read the descriptions of ingenious inventions for doing away with the services of hens, as incubators, but it is not for man to improve on the works of nature, as applied to egg-hatching.

NEST BOXES.

The best nest boxes are those that hide the hens from sight when we are passing near them. This rule applies to our common breeds much more than to the large Asiatic fowls, the latter being more domestic in their habits, and not easily frightened from their nests.

It has been recommended by experienced breeders, to construct the boxes, so as to admit the fowls on the *back* sides, and have lids hung on hinges on the top of the tier, to be raised up to examine the nests. This plan has its advantages and disadvantages. It affords a quiet retreat for the fowls, but does not allow the breeder to see at a glance whether all is right therein, as he should be able to see, when his hens are incubating. It sometimes happens that two fowls crowd into one nest by mistake, and if it be the nest of a sitting hen, serious results often happen in the destruction of eggs, as I have before stated. Again, it is a question whether permanent or moveable boxes are best. I use both kinds, but give the preference to the latter—the moveable ones. For the large breeds, I construct them fifteen inches in diameter, each way, and from eight to twelve inches high, with the fronts sawed out obliquely from each upper corner, towards the centre down within six inches of the bottom; thus affording ingress without obliging the hens to hop down, which our large breeds cannot do without danger of breaking the eggs. Furthermore, some of them cannot get into a nest one foot high, without considerable effort at flying up, when a common, native hen would hop up with the great-

For our common, native hens, I make the boxes about one foot square, both in diameter and height.

I place my boxes six to eight feet apart, but one must have a commodious fowl house to allow so much space, if he keeps a large number of fowls. I have several yards and houses, one for each breed.

NUMBER OF HENS TO A COCK.

The general rule is to allow about ten hens to one cock, yet more hens may sometimes be allowed with safety, when we are not particularly anxious that every egg should be impregnated. In breeding very valuable fowls, fewer pullets to each male, is the safer way. I have at present four Brahma Pootra (I generally call them *Brahma* fowls, for convenience, and I find that the public prefer this shorter name,) roosters to twenty pullets, but I find them rather too amorous, and I shall have to take away one or two of them.

DURATION OF IMPREGNATION.

This is a *very* important question to the breeder, and as it is not always convenient to keep each breed separate in the fall and winter, when the hens are not laying, the question is, how long can we allow our fowls to run together promiscuously in the non-breeding season, with safety?

It is the opinion of many experienced breeders, that an impregnation lasts no longer than during the period of laying one single litter of eggs, and that if a hen be removed at the expiration of laying her litter, and placed with a cock of her own pure blood, that the chicks produced thereafter will have no impure trace, though the hen previously ran with an impure cock. I do not admit that this is true, but I am convinced that some trace of impurity will extend to the second and third litter after that laid from connection with an impure blooded cock.

Last season I received a trio of Guelderland fowls from G. H. Bacheler, Esq., of Lynn, Mass., one cock and two pullets. He informed me that the pullets had run with cocks of other breeds, and added, that a few of their first eggs would probably be a little impure; but I found that a trace of impurity ran in their eggs through two litters at least.

The best way is, undoubtedly, to be able to keep the different breeds distinct and separate the entire year; but when this is not done, they must be separated before any manifestations of intimacy between cocks and pullets takes place.

LONGEVITY OF FOWLS.

A dunghill fowl will live, with good care, in some cases, from ten to fifteen years; but we should not allow them to live beyond the third or fourth year, unless it be some valuable breed, that may still be of service to us. A hen is in her prime the first and second years. They are better *layers* the first year after maturity, and better *sitters* thereafter, as a general rule. In keeping our common varieties, it is best to keep none over three years from the egg.

COCKS NOT NECESSARY TO PRODUCE EGGS.

It is the opinion of many people that hens will not lay as many eggs in a season when no cock is allowed to run with them, but this is not so. I kept two hundred hens on Long Island, some years ago, during one year, without any cocks, as an experiment, and I found no difference in the number of eggs produced at all, nor in the desire of the hens to incubate. It is said that eggs produced without impregnation, will keep good much longer than those that are impregnated. This subject is worthy the consideration of those who furnish eggs in large quantities.

TO PRESERVE EGGS.

Perhaps no subject is more veiled in uncertainty, and in an absence of any method or recipe that can be relied on, than the preservation of eggs the entire year, so that they shall be equally good as those fresh laid.

Many recipes are given from year to year, that claim to be effectual in producing such a result, but it is not in the power of man to preserve an egg, even six months, and have the same fine, fresh flavor, that a new laid egg possesses. This I consider a settled point, and the question then arises, what is the best way to preserve eggs the longest possible time, and have them in a good condition for use?

The general practice in preserving eggs, has been to use lime and salt as the principal ingredients, and I believe that nothing else exists that is better than these two articles. An egg can be kept fresh but a short time, if exposed to the air, even in the least degree; hence, no method of preservation is of value, that does not wholly exclude the atmosphere, and prevent the natural evaporation of the contents of the egg. Dr. Bennett says in the "Poultry Book:"

Eggs, after being laid, lose daily by transpiration, a portion of the matter which they contain, notwithstanding the compact texture of their shell, and of the close tissue of the flexible membranes lining the shell, and enveloping the white. When an egg is fresh, it is proverbially full, without any vacancy; and this is matter of common observation, whether it be broken raw, or when it is either soft or hard boiled. But in all stale eggs, on the contrary, there is uniformly more or less vacancy, in proportion to the loss they have sustained by transpiration; and hence, in order to judge of the freshness of an egg, it is usual to hold it up to the light, when the translucency of the shell makes it appear whether or not there be any vacancy in the upper portion, as well as whether the yolk and white are mingled and muddy, by the rotting and bursting of their enveloping membranes.

The transpiration of eggs, besides, is proportional to the temperature in which they may be placed—cold retarding, and heat promoting the process; and hence, by keeping fresh laid eggs in a cool cellar, or better still, in an ice-house, they will transpire less, and be preserved for a longer period sound, than if they are kept in a warm place, or exposed to the sun's light, which has also a great effect in promoting the exhalation of moisture. As therefore, fermentation and putridity can only take place by communication with the air, at a moderate temperature, some means must be devised to exclude such connection, by closing the pores of the shell.

The following items are selected from various sources, not now known particularly; nor is it of much consequence, as I shall not consider that I do any great injustice to any one by failing to give the *original* source of them. These, as well as hundreds of other items, have been the rounds of the papers till their paternity is lost; yet they are just as valuable, so long as they give the result of experience, and state facts, as if I were to receive them direct from the Queen of England, who is one of the most extensive fowl fanciers of that kingdom:

Pickling Eggs.—In England, at the season of the year when the stock of eggs is plentiful, they cause some four or six dozen to be boiled in a capacious saucepan, until they become quite hard. They then, after removing the shells, lay them carefully in large mouthed jars, and pour over them scalding vinegar, well seasoned with whole

pepper, allspice, ginger, and a few cloves or garlic. Then, when cold, bung them down close. In a month they will be fit for use. Where eggs are plentiful, the above pickle is by no means expensive, and as an acetic accompaniment to cold meat, it cannot be outrivalled for piquancy and gout by the generality of pickles made in this country.

The above is doubtless a very good method of pickling eggs; but for our part, we prefer putting them down in salt, after dipping them in whitewash.

To Pickle Eggs.—Any that are left from market, and not wanted for immediate use, make a nice and very pretty pickle to garnish cold meat with. Boil them until quite hard, take off the shells, put them carefully in large mouthed jars, and cover them with cold vinegar, and they will keep well for several months. If white wine vinegar is used, they will retain their whiteness; they may be made a beautiful yellow, and the flavor improved, by the addition of yellow mustard, powdered, or a fine red, by using vinegar in which beets have been kept.

To Preserve Eggs.—A pint of lime and a pint of salt, mixed with a pail of water, will preserve eggs for any reasonable time. My wife read it in an old almanac, and tried it last year; the eggs were as fresh at the end of six months as if right from the nest.

Preserving Eggs.—Some years ago I visited a friend who lived upon a large farm near the northern boundary of Pennsylvania, and, as it was late in the autumn, expressed surprise at the liberal supply of eggs served up at every meal, in cakes, puddings, &c. The lady told me it was all due to the *little girls!* As soon as the hens began to lay in the spring, they gathered the eggs, and covered each one with a coating of lard or other soft grease, and then laid them, with the small end downwards, in regular piles on the cellar floor, or packed them in earthen jars, which were then filled with melted fat (*not hot,*) —this kept out the air; and these always afforded plenty for use during the whole year, besides those taken fresh from the nests, and sent to market. This grease or lard can be purified afterwards, so as to answer for soap, by washing in hot water, and straining through a cloth, then put away to cool. Packed in this way, I have known eggs sent to China, and have been assured by those who took them, that they were as good when they reached Canton, as when they left New York. Quite too fresh for the subjects of the "Brother of the Moon," the mighty ruler of the Celestial Empire, who never think an egg fit to be eaten until it has smell enough to disgust a school-boy. Another way of keeping eggs is, to pack in jars, and pour lime water over them, which keeps the air out, and does not injure them; for everybody knows that egg-shells are composed of lime. I know a lady who allowed her children to build a wall of eggs against the cellar wall, by placing them in a bed of slacked lime, kept in its place by a board in front, and one at each end, which were taken away when the wall was finished; in this way they kept perfectly well for several months. But behold! when they wanted to use the eggs,

they found the lime had hardened, and was so incorporated with the shells, that they were obliged to break the lime with a hatchet, which demolished the wall and eggs at the same time!

For many years the following compound has been recommended, with slight variations, until every man, woman and child in the land has probably read, or heard of it:

"To a bushel of quick lime, add two or three pounds of salt, and half a pound of cream of tartar." Water is added, of course, to make a thick pickle, into which the eggs are placed. The provision dealers of New York, formerly laid down large quantities of eggs in this way, but many were lost. I have seen hogsheads filled with eggs, and covered with this compound, and sometimes not one in five can be used, when kept nine or ten months.

I have had better success with common fine salt alone. I take a clean tub or barrel, and put in a layer of salt, so that the eggs may be set up on their small ends, and after covering the surface with a compact tier, thus set, I put in more salt, and proceed as before, and cover the last tier with a solid coat of salt an inch thick, well packed down, then I tie two or three large newspapers over the top, then put on the lid, and the eggs keep six months in very good condition.

PROPER FOOD FOR FOWLS.

The principle food for fowls should be Indian corn, in some shape, sometimes whole, sometimes cracked, sometimes ground to meal, and occasionally ground with the cob. Then you want oats, buckwheat, and any other grain you please, but the three kinds here named constitute a good supply for the extensive breeder. Besides the above grains, you should be prepared to furnish a mess of boiled potatoes, or other vegetables, several times a week, and mixed with meal of some kind; and be careful to change the diet of your fowls often. In the laying season, a solid feed of shelled corn, fed profusely, is too heating, and boiled potatoes, when fed to excess, are too laxative. The careful breeder will always guard against these results, by watching the condition of his fowls. If laxative, a change of food is to be given at once, of a more solid nature. A little rye or wheat is an excellent change in such cases. If costive, a boiled mash of potatoes will generally be a remedy.

What food will cause hens to lay the most eggs, is a question that will never be decided. Some say, feed oats; others, buckwheat, &c.; but it is a judicious rotation of feeding that produces the best results, in my opinion. No one kind of food will make hens lay well, unless they are provided with the requisite concomitants, such as fresh meat, fat, charcoal, and calcareous matter, to assist nature in forming the shell of the egg, all of which is found in a wide range, without our especial attention, or at least enough to cause a hen to lay her maximum number of eggs.

Broom-corn seed is a good grain to feed to fowls. They will not eat it in its whole state, with that avidity that they will eat other grains; but the grower of broom-corn can, by grinding, turn this seed to a good account, in feeding it to his poultry.

Sun-flower-seeds have been highly recommended as food for fowls. I have fed them, but have not seen any particular benefit from their use. Fowls require grass to eat to a certain extent, and they should never be confined where they cannot have access to it, and if they are confined so as not to be able to obtain a supply of bugs and worms, a little flesh of some kind is absolutely necessary to their productiveness. As to burnt bones, mortar, pounded oyster shells, charcoal, &c., no one should think of keeping a large number of fowls, or even any number, without furnishing a supply of these things, unless his fowls have a very extensive range; and even in that case, it would be to his interest to provide them. Nolan makes the following remarks in his work on fowls:

Nothing is easier kept than fowls. They obtain their living promiscuously, and pick up everything that can be made use of as food, in the farm-yard; even the worms give them most nutritious food and since the blight has proved so destructive to the potatoe crop, it has been satisfactorily proved, there is no substitute for it, as a feeder or fattener of poultry, or a promoter of laying. If the potatoes are broken, and if a little corn be added, they will be the more palatable; the more varied the food, the better; boiled carrots, turneps, parsneps, Jerusalem artichokes, or other roots, boiled and mashed with bran, form a healthful variety. As to green food, they are partial to lettuce, endive, cabbage, spinach, radish, turnep, mangel-wurtzel, chickweed, grass seeds, &c.; and if insectivorous food is wished for, there is nothing more easily procured, at almost any season, by procuring a deep crock, into which put some bran, and on it lay a piece of carrion, or other flesh, cover it with a glass cap so as to admit the light, but exclude the rain; in a few days it will be a moving mass of living insects, which you can throw out to your poultry; there is nothing they will so greedily devour; they should

be sparingly given, as the fowls are so fond of them, that if given abundantly, it will prevent them taking their usual food.

I have experimented to a considerable extent to ascertain the quantity of grain a given number of fowls will consume in a year, when no other food is furnished. The result is, that one half bushel of corn, and the same of oats, or their equivalent in other grains, will keep each fowl in good condition. I now refer to our common breeds. Probably some of the large breeds will require more; but I have found that some particular breeds, the *Brahmas* for instance, consume so much grass in its season, that the same food that is necessary for one of our common native fowls, is sufficient for one of that breed. The cost of keeping each fowl, according to my experience, is from fifty to sixty cents a year, according to the price of grain in this vicinity. At the West, it would not be over twenty-five cents in many places. One *gill* a day for each fowl, is as much as they will consume, under ordinary circumstances. There are two hundred and fifty-six gills in a bushel, consequently this estimate falls short of the previous one, of a bushel to each fowl; but allowing for some imperfect grain, and some wastage, we can safely put the quantity at *one bushel* per head, if fed on corn and oats chiefly. If fed on other, and more nutritious grains, such as wheat and barley, they would not consume quite so much in quantity, but the cost would be the same. Mr. Bement, in his work entitled "*The American Poulterer's Companion*," gives the result of an experiment that substantiates my estimate. He says:

"I was curious to ascertain the quantity of each sort of grain which a given number of fowls, when abundantly supplied, would consume, and for that purpose, I confined one cock and seven hens of the Poland variety. The first feed I gave them was one peck of Indian corn, which they consumed in eleven days. I then fed them one peck of oats, which they ate in six days. The next feed was the same quantity of barley, which lasted them seven days. The like quantity of wheat, they consumed in ten days. The same quantity of millet lasted them eight days, and the like quantity of wheat-screenings they devoured in seven days. During this trial, they had no other food, except a few boiled potatoes.

In the case of the feeding of a peck of corn to eight fowls, which was consumed in eleven days, it was at the rate of a bushel a head, per annum. Thirty-three pecks, or eight and one quarter bushels, would have been required to feed these fowls one year, had they eaten with the same appetite the

entire time; but they would not have eaten so much after the first ten or twenty days, which shows that one bushel, half corn, and half oats, is a correct estimate of the quantity each fowl will generally consume. We often see statements in the papers that certain fowls have cost seventy, eighty, or ninety cents, or even one dollar a head, per annum, for keeping; but these are cases in which their food has been purchased at high rates.

MANNER OF FEEDING.

Regularity should always be observed in the hours of feeding, also in the quantity of food given. Not surfeit them one day, and starve them the next, but give the fowls their food as regularly as you take your own meals.

Various inventions have been constructed to feed with facility, and to lessen labor, and at the same time not expose the grain to the depredations of vermin. I will endeavor to describe one of the best and only plan I can recommend.

In the first place, a square box is made, say eighteen inches square, and one foot high, with a lid hung on hinges. This box is set on legs like those of a plain table, one at each corner. Within the space between the legs, a *hopper* some two feet long is placed, which connects with the box above, which box has no bottom, observe. The hopper is made to converge on each side to a point at the bottom, in which is a hole about an inch in diameter, to allow the grain to pass out into a receiver under, and joining to the said hopper, and some eight inches from the ground. The *receiver* is of the shape of an inverted hopper, but much more depressed, or its cone being formed by a much more acute angle than the hopper above. On each side of this receiver is a trap door, which is made to open when the fowl hops upon a little ladder that projects from under the receiver, and which is so arranged that the weight of the fowl on the ladder raises the lid to the receiver, and exposes the grain. The fowl eats as much as she desires, hops down, and the lid closes. The fowls have to be trained to feed from these receivers a few days, with the lids open, and fastened up.

The above described feeder was originally introduced in the "Transactions of the Highland Society," of Scotland, from which I make the following extract:

It can be made to contain any quantity of grain required, and none

wasted. When once filled, it requires no more trouble, as the grain falls into the receiver below as the fowls pick it away; and the covers on that, which are opened by the perches, (the principles of which we do not understand,) and the cover on the top, protect the grain from rain, so that the fowls always get it quite dry; and as nothing less than the weight of a hen on the perch can lift the cover on the lower receiver, rats and mice (which are very troublesome when grain is fed in the ordinary way,) are excluded. It is astonishing, too, with what facility the fowls learn to leap upon the perches, and so open the cover of the receiver, which presents the grain to their view and within their reach. On their leaving the perch or platform, the door, either by a spring or weight, closes at once.

It is barely possible that the reader will fully understand the exact manner in which this feeder is made, in the absence of a cut, which I omitted to procure, in consequence of the great and unusual number of other engravings that I have had executed for this work.

The principle by which the weight of the fowl is made to open the lids to the receiver, was not fully explained, but the genius of our people will soon find a way to effect that object.

Mr. Bement constructed one differing somewhat from that spoken of by the Highland Society, which he thus describes:

This feeding hopper is four-square, two feet each way—posts eighteen inches long and two inches square. The upper section of the box is six inches deep, and the sides are morticed into or nailed to the posts. From the bottom of this square, the slanting part or tunnel reaches to within half an inch of the floor, which should be six inches from the ground; the tunnel tapers from two to one feet; and in order to bring the grain within reach of the fowls, a cone is placed in the centre, as much smaller than the hopper as to leave half an inch space all around, which conducts the grain to the edge, where, as the fowls pick the grain away, more will fall, and keep a constant supply as long as any is left in the hopper. The slats on the sides prevent the fowls from getting in or crowding one another. This fountain will hold two bushels or more of grain, and protects it from wet, and in a measure from rats. It occupies but little room, and from sixteen to twenty fowls can feed at the same time.

To protect the grain more effectually from rats and mice, we would suggest that the posts be made some two feet longer, and a platform of boards about one foot wide, placed round, and fitted close up to the bottom, so that mice cannot climb up the posts and get in. This platform will be necessary for them to stand on when eating.

All matter pertaining to the feeding of fowls, I consider very important, and I think that I cannot better serve the interests of my readers, than by making copious extracts of interesting matter. The following are selections from the journals of the day:

There was an article in the Pittsfield Culturist, in which the writer attributes the loss of fowls to their eating the seeds of pumpkins. The idea that they are injurious, and that fowls will not eat them, I am aware is quite common; but for years the reverse has been true with us. They have eaten a large proportion of the seeds that were scattered in feeding pumpkins to cows, and chopping or breaking them to boil as food for hogs, though the fowls were fed daily with some kind of grain. Having a larger number of fowls and a less quantity of feed this season than usual, some pains were taken, in cutting up pumpkins, to shake out, and scatter most of the seeds on the ground, expressly for the hens. When boiling for hogs, nearly a load of pumpkins were broken up during the day; and days we did not boil, pumpkins were broken open to supply them with seeds. In this way some sixty or seventy hens have disposed of a large proportion of the seeds of twenty-five loads of pumpkins, (two horse wagon loads.) I have not seen any bad effects from their eating them, either this or former seasons. On the contrary, they have done well on them—have become fat. Now if I were possessed of any of the popular breeds of fowls, valued from $80 to $100 per pair, I might hesitate in feeding them with pumpkin seeds; but with our common fowls, I should as soon hesitate in feeding corn, from fear of any injurious effects that might follow.—*Selected.*

We have had some little experience in the 'henery,' and have found a great secret in getting a supply of eggs through the whole season, but not in driving the hens up hill, nor in feeding them exclusively on gravel, nor in supplying them with chalk nest-eggs. The whole secret consists in giving them plenty of food, as the chicken's mill is very convenient. For six or eight months in the year, the chickens will supply themselves with animal food, in the shape of insects, but the rest of the time feed them regularly with flesh as well as corn. Boiled potatoes are an excellent food for fowls, but with it they want grain of some kind, and flesh also. In our long hot summers, poultry are inclined to become lousy; but if clean, good ashes, are placed convenient to the hen-house, the hens will dust themselves in them until the vermin disappear. Nature is their teacher, and here is the unerring guide. A good shelter should be provided for the chickens to roost under. The manure of chickens, properly saved, will repay all expenses of feeding. It is a great error to crowd too many chickens together.—*Selected.*

As I have had three years' experience, with some twelve different breeds, I will give you my views in this matter. It depends upon the breeds, I think, as to the manner of feeding. All of the Asiatic breeds, I feed in this wise: I make three boxes that will hold half a peck of corn, each. I fill one with corn, another with buckwheat, and set them all before them at once, and am careful not to let either get empty. I feed all of the large breeds in this way. Once a week in winter, I put into the coop a cabbage or two, to six or eight fowls.

My smaller breeds I feed in winter only on one kind of grain, but keep it before them, such as the golden and silver Pheasants and Bantams, as these will not lay in the coldest months, at any rate as far

as my experience goes, even if fed upon all sorts of grain. All fowls should be placed so as to have the sun and come to the ground; also should have a box of ashes set so as the sun will shine upon it, and they will wallow in it more freely. If they have plenty of gravel, they will not become too fat, or oyster shells, or burnt bones, pounded fine. I am satisfied that this is the cheapest way of keeping these breeds. Geese do not require to be kept in this way, as they will be healthy if not fed so high.—*Selected.*

Richardson, the English author, observes:

"You must separate the two classes of fowls, layers and fatteners, at all events at feeding time. Make some separate provision for your cocks; if they are only fed in company with the hens, they are apt to think too much of their mistresses, and to neglect their own appetites; and recollect, that to have *strong* chickens, you must have a strong cock, which an ill-fed bird cannot be expected to prove. You should also make separate provision for such fowls as are bullied or oppressed by the rest. Fowls are much given to *jealousy*: the *cock's favor* is sometimes the cause of this, but by no means invariably so; and, indeed, the cause is not at all times to be ascertained; however obscure the *cause*, it is incumbent on the poultry fancier to prevent the *effect*, by adopting the separative system at the times indicated.

In such an occurrence, which is easily recognizable by the cock's continually running at that particular bird, to the neglect, or comparative neglect, of the others, it is best to remove the favorite *at once;* if not, quarrels will ensue; this hen will nearly always be made a victim, and in many cases the quarrels on her account will give rise to other and more general affrays. On such occasions, the cock usually interferes, and endeavors to establish peace; he almost invariably does so when the contest is carried on *per duello;* when, however, a number of his mistresses fall upon one, his interference is of little avail; and, as if he were conscious of this, in such cases he usually leaves the poor favorite to her fate. I would not be so minute, but that I feel that these remarks, the result of long observation, will interest the naturalist as well as the mere poultry fancier. I have also known a cock to take a *dislike* to a particular hen; and, in one instance, he did not desist from his persecution till the poor thing died. This is a much more rare case than the preceding, and I have no doubt of its cause; it is this—when a vigorous, healthy cock, is mated with *very few* hens, he is very persevering in his attentions to them; when hens are in *moult*, they will not accept of any such. In most instances of this kind, I have found the hen thus victimized by her lord, to have been moulting, and to have incurred his hatred by a refusal of conjugal rights. The cock will sometimes fall upon a hen newly introduced into your yard, especially if of a different color from his other mates. This recently occurred amongst my own fowls, they being chiefly black Spanish, and the new hen, a yellow Hamburgh. I tried the experiment of coloring the latter black; the cock no longer beat her, and he did not seem to notice the subsequent gradual renewal of the yellow, as the black wore off.

Mr. Mellendy, the extensive fowl breeder, of Mount Healthy, Ohio, writes me:

I feed my old fowls, corn, wheat, oats, barley, and broom-corn seed. I feed them but once a day. I give them all they can eat of the grain. I have in boxes in each department, old mortar, oyster shells, bones and sand. I water twice a day in summer, and once in winter. I give them cabbage, lettuce, and grass, twice a week. In winter, I feed once a week on red pepper. Fowls fed in this way, will lay, if they are of the right breed.

Mr. Miner,—The following method will be found a good one. Once a day in summer, feed on a mixture of corn and barley, or corn and oats. This will be sufficient, if your fowls have a large enclosure where they can obtain gravel, insects, worms, and green food. If they are confined to a small space, these substances must be supplied them liberally. In winter, keep corn, mixed sometimes with barley, and sometimes with oats, constantly before them, as well as pounded oyster shells, burnt bones, and a plenty of gravel. Occasionally, give boiled potatoes, mashed, and mixed with Indian meal, or bran—warm, but not hot. Twice or three times a week, give them scraps from the tallow chandler's, or fresh meat. Let them have wood ashes to dust themselves in, and an abundance of clean water, fresh every day; in freezing weather, the water should be warmed. Chickens require no food for the first twenty-four hours after they are hatched; I have, however, been in the habit of giving them water in about twelve hours from the time they leave the shell. After the first twenty-four hours, for about two months, I give them coarse meal, or cracked corn, moistened a very little, and sometimes dry, three or four times a day; occasionally vary their food, by giving sometimes cooked meat, chopped fine, and sometimes crumbs of bread. I also prefer to feed damaged wheat, that is to say, wheat that has grown. This can often be procured at low rates, and is the very best of food for fowls. An abundance of clean water should be constantly before them. It will not answer to feed fowls wholly upon *any one variety of food.* Fowls require a mixture of green food with *hard* food, fully as much as horses or cattle do. When fowls have sufficient range, they will find this for themselves in summer; when they do not possess such an advantage, you must provide green food for them.

A. A. Hudson.

FATTENING FOWLS.

The process of fattening fowls should be a speedy one. Two weeks is about the extent of time that they should be cooped, in my opinion. They should be kept in a place where there is but little light—just enough to allow them to eat and drink—by which they remain quiet, and take on fat rapidly. They should be supplied with pounded charcoal and gravel. Some

people confine their fowls in close quarters to fatten, and even tie their feet fast to the floor of their coop. Hear what this cruel fellow did, clipped from an agricultural paper:

I had a box made and divided into three parts, eight inches by fourteen, just large enough to admit one fowl to each division. It was made tight enough to exclude the light of day, mostly, yet I left openings enough for fresh air. I then placed two roosters and one hen turkey in the box, (one fowl in each division,) confining their feet to the floor, so that they could not move from the position in which I placed them. The front of the box I hung on hinges, for convenience of feeding, &c.

Most people have noticed that at sunrise and sunset, all kinds of poultry eat voraciously, and I supposed that if they were kept in the dark, (at which time of quiet all animals fatten most,) and the sunlight admitted several times during the day, and fed at that time, they might be induced to take on fat rapidly, and in this I was not disappointed. I fed them with rice boiled in milk, and sweetened with molasses, giving them water to drink but once during their confinement, and at the end of sixteen days I killed them. Handsomer and fatter birds I never saw. By some such method as this, I have no doubt that the income of farmers from this source, might be greatly augmented. A series of well-conducted experiments of this kind might be of benefit to your readers, and the public generally. Who will undertake it?

For fattening, corn is the best food that can be procured. If it is cracked in a mill, and moistened with water, it is considered by many as preferable to the whole grain.

The system of the forcible cramming of fowls, is barbarous, and unworthy of honorable notice. If a fowl will not fatten by natural means, sufficient to satisfy the gormandizing propensities of epicures, then, I say, let them go without poultry.

MANAGEMENT OF YOUNG CHICKENS.

It sometimes happens that the confined chick is unable to break the shell of the egg at the proper time, owing to weakness, or to the unusual thickness and strength of the shell. In such cases, no aid can be rendered that will save the life of the chick as a general rule. I have heard the little laborers pecking faithfully for a half a day, or more, when I have carefully broken the shells of the eggs, but in most cases, the chicks died, sooner or later, some living several days. In other cases, they are able to break the shell, but go no further, and soon die, unless relieved. This is a very precarious duty, and

should be delayed ten or twelve hours, at least, after the shell is "pipped," as it is termed, and then operate with a very careful hand, and avoid the breaking of the blood vessels, and if the egg is not wholly absorbed by the chick, you should not liberate it entirely until that is effected.

The most natural, and the most healthy food for chicks, during the first few days of their existence, is boiled eggs, which may, if you please, be mixed with bread soaked in milk, or pounded crackers. This food is only recommended in rearing the most valuable breeds. Our common breeds can hardly expect such dainty fare. During the first twenty-four hours, they require no food whatever, and the less they are disturbed, the better.

After chicks are a week old, they may eat a variety of food with safety, but avoid fine Indian meal, unless it be mixed with some lighter food, as it will bake or harden in their crops, and kill them. Wheat screenings, buckwheat, wheat, and barley, are excellent food. Rye is not good; it is astringent. Indian meal and bran, mixed, are good, but not recommended as a constant feed. Various other things may be fed to advantage, such as sour milk, boiled potatoes mixed with meal, &c., that the breeder's own good judgment will dictate. Mr. P. Melendy writes me as follows:

For the first two weeks after the chicks are hatched, I feed corn ground in a coffee mill. I grind it very coarse. I also give them hard boiled eggs, and plenty of clean water, and thick milk. I then feed on corn, as above, and whole wheat.

GAPES IN CHICKENS.

The following communications to the Northern Farmer are valuable, and throw much light on this subject:

Gapes in Chickens.—I have tried nearly all the various remedies going the rounds in the various papers of the day, for gapes in chickens, such as sulphur, soap, pepper, spirits of turpentine, and various other remedies too numerous to mention, without any beneficial results; and why? because any of these medicines, either given or fed to them in their food, can never reach or remove the cause, which is nothing more or less than a worm in the windpipe, where none of these medicines can ever reach them. For the last two years I have tried the method of extracting these worms, (which is very simple, and easily done,) and have never failed in a single instance to effect a cure; the method is this: take a quill from a hen's wing, strip the feather from each side to within an inch of the end, with a pair

of shears trim the remaining feathers to a point, leaving them nearly half an inch wide in the widest place; then, holding the chicken's legs between the knees, with one hand hold the chicken's head and neck in a perpendicular direction, holding the mouth open with the thumb and finger, with the other hand insert the feather into the windpipe, the opening of which will be readily seen on the roots of the tongue, and which the chicken will open in the act of breathing, push it down gently as far as it will go, and twisting it round, pull it out, which will either bring out the worms, or loosen them so that the chicken will cough them up. In some cases it may be necessary to repeat the operation, in order to effect a cure. In one instance I extracted twenty-four worms from the windpipe of one chicken, none of which were less than an inch long, and by only two insertions of the feather. The chicken to all appearance was nearly dead before it was operated upon, and in less than an hour after, it appeared and eat as well any chicken I had. I presume I have saved more than a hundred chickens by this simple process.

H. V. N. DIMMICK.

MR. MINER—*Dear Sir:* For the benefit of all the subscribers to the Northern Farmer, and fowl fanciers, I would say, that onions are a sure cure for the gapes in chickens, and if fed on them daily, they will not have any disease whatever. They do not like them at first, but will soon be very fond of them. I bought one last summer, and found after I had put it with my other fowls, that it had got the *pip*, as we call it here, and in one week all of my chickens had this disease the very worst kind. I gave them lard and Cayenne pepper, equal parts, once a day, and fed them daily on onions, and in one week they were as well as ever.

* * * * * *

Norwich, Conn.

GAPES IN CHICKENS, LICE, AND ROUP.—For the benefit of all the subscribers to the Northern Farmer; and those that are in the poultry business, I would say that spirits of turpentine is a sure cure for gapes in chickens, also the roup, if taken in season. I have tried it for the last six months, with pleasing success in all cases when taken in season. In the first stages, it should be given two or three times a day with care.

Those that use grease to kill lice on chickens, must be careful and not use too much, as too much is sure to kill lice, chickens and all. I have used spirits of turpentine mixed with alcohol and a little water, with good results; the chickens will soon dry, and be as lively as ever.

W. E. W.

GAPES.—Several remedies have been given for the gapes. Salt given in their water has been recommended. Spirits of turpentine, mixed with rice, has also been used with success. The generality of breeders agree that the gapes are produced by the fascicola, a parasitic worm in the windpipe, which may be removed by the introduction into it of a small feather, without any web, except at the farther end. Give the feather a few turns, and the fascicola will be either dislodged, and coughed up by the chick, or brought up on the end of

the feather. We have tried this plan, but never found any worms. Our plan is, (and we have never yet had a chicken die with the gapes,) to have mother and chicks comfortably housed at sundown—keep their drinking water in shallow *iron* vessels, and give them once a day a little ground Cayenne pepper mixed with corn meal. In the morning, they are permitted to run at large as early as their inclination prompts them.—*Pa. Farm Journal.*

Gapes in Chickens.—I have lost a great many chickens by this disease. I have tried all the remedies that have been published, and killed more than I cured, and I am convinced that all you give the chick will do no good. I have cut open the windpipes of more than fifty, and find a small, red worm there, some half an inch long. Now all that is given to the chick, goes down the throat, and not where the worm is. I have saved more by the following plan, than by any other way:

Take tobacco stems, and put them into a tin or iron vessel. Put in a few shavings, and set them on fire, with the tobacco. Take the chick and hold it over the smoke till it stops gaping. Take it away two or three times a minute, to get breath. The smoke that is inhaled in the windpipe, suffocates the worm, and causes the chick to sneeze and cough it up. Repeat every two days. There is a black worm that I sometimes find, which is sure to kill the chick. There is no remedy for them.

P. Melendy.

LICE ON CHICKENS.

A little lamp oil, put on the heads and under the wings of chickens, I have always found to be a certain remedy for lice. Tobacco juice is also a good remedy. Lard rubbed on their heads, and under their wings, is said to be a good remedy. The above three articles are considered so effectual, that nothing further need be said. The oil is the best, I think.

CHICKENS RAISED WITHOUT A MOTHER.

Various plans have been adopted to rear chickens without the aid of hens, and with a good degree of success. A chick that is taken from the hen as soon as hatched, or within twenty-four hours thereafter, soon forgets her, and if comfortable quarters are provided, it grows up merry and contented. "Artificial mothers," or brooders, are frequently made of sheep-skins, with the wool down, under which the chicks run at night.

I have often raised large numbers of chickens in an enclosure, without any hens. My plan is to make a yard of boards, so high that a chicken cannot fly over till about two or three weeks

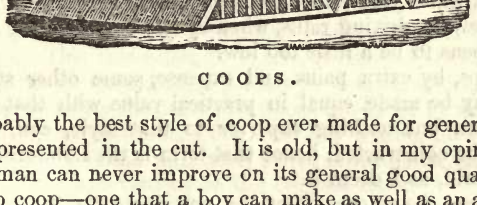
old. The yard to be twenty-five or thirty feet square for one hundred chickens. In one corner I construct their lodgings, to be well ventilated in warm weather, yet admitting no rain. Around, at the sides of this little building, within, I place a continuous row of sheep-skins, with the wool down, and supported on light framework. The distance from the floor is about two inches at first, and raised, as the chickens grow, to three or four inches. I am particular to afford a circulation of air on all sides of the skins, and if a few air-holes be made in the centres of them, the better, as chickens cannot live without fresh air, at any season. The chickens being placed under these skins once or twice, will retire of their own accord thereafter, and the animal heat generated by them in a body, keeps them warm. In stormy weather, they should not be allowed to leave their domicil, which should be large enough to give them room to eat, &c., without being crowded. This little building should be kept clean, and have ashes and lime sprinkled on the floor, and the skins should be aired occasionally, and a little spirits of turpentine sprinkled over the wool, would be an excellent preventive of lice.

When the chicks are old enough to fly over a fence eighteen inches high, (that is a suitable height,) let them do so, and ramble about at pleasure, but you should have facilities for their return, as they will not be so eager to fly into the yard as out of it. Some logs of wood, or anything, may be placed against the outside of the fence, to enable them to return with ease. It is not prudent to allow them to run at large, till they can fly over one or two boards.

On one occasion I had three hundred chicks hatched out within the same week, or rather less time than a whole week, and I placed them in a pen by the side of a potato field, into which they ran when of a suitable age, and grew finely, procuring nearly their entire support in bugs, &c. All went on remarkably well, none died of any account, and I never before saw chicks grow so rapidly. When about a month old, a thunder-storm came on so suddenly, that it caught them all out, and the wind blew so furiously that they were bewildered, and knew not what to do. I endeavored to call them in, but could not; they had taken a precarious shelter beneath the potato vines, and there they were drenched for two hours. Then it cleared off with a raw, cold wind, that stiffened them, and more than half perished. This result, however, is no

objection to the plan of rearing without a mother, but we should never place our yards by the side of a thickly planted potato-patch. It would be much better to plant two rows of potatoes, and then two of corn, all running to and from the yard. These avenues, afforded by the corn, would prevent such fatal results as occurred in my case, by allowing the chicks to return to their yard with ease. The potatoes I consider very important to their growth, affording an abundance of insects to feed on.

As to the economy of this plan, I am inclined to think that a very large number of chickens can be raised in this manner at a cheaper rate, and with less mortality, than by the ordinary method. My plan, of course, was only premature—adopted on the spur of the occasion. A little study into the wants of large numbers of chickens, to render them healthy, will suggest to the careful observer, all that is wanted to render success easy in the raising of chickens by the thousand, or ten thousand, if desired.



COOPS.

Probably the best style of coop ever made for general use, is that represented in the cut. It is old, but in my opinion, the art of man can never improve on its general good qualities for a cheap coop—one that a boy can make as well as an architect, and one that is adapted to the use of people in all circumstances and conditions of life. All that is to be done to construct them, is to take two pieces of a wide board, and nail them together at the top, in the triangular form above shown, then board up one side tight, and put slats of lath on the other side, either in a perpendicular or horizontal position, and the coop is done. If the slats are put on in a perpendicular position, you will require a cross strip of more substantial dimensions, to nail the laths to at the bottom. The position of coops of this kind

should be with their tight sides facing the direction of the prevailing cold winds and storms. No bottoms should be attached to such coops, but the hens should be allowed to brood their young upon the bare ground, unless it be in cold weather, when a little hay, or other dry substance may be provided.

To prevent rats and other nocturnal depredators from gaining an entrance, a board should be attached to the outside, hung on hinges, and to be raised at night, and buttoned up; and to be let down by day, as a feeding board for the young chicks to take their meals on. An easier way, is to drive down a small stake at each corner of the coop, and to slide the board down between the stakes and coop at evening, when the brood are all in, and to raise it in the morning. A board one foot wide is sufficient, as the hen and chicks will require all the fresh air that can be admitted in warm weather. Some people make coops of barrels, by placing them in a horizontal position, with one end out, and with stakes driven down in front, to correspond with the laths on the "marquee," or tent-shaped coop just described. In such cases, the end of the barrel in which the head is not removed, is raised a few inches to allow the water that may beat in during storms, to run out at the front. I have used such coops, but do not like them. They afford no opportunity for hens to wallow and scratch in the dirt, so congenial to their nature and health, and it often happens that whole broods of chickens are drowned in them, in cases of severe, driving rains, when by any oversight the headed end happens to be a little too low.

Perhaps, by extra pains and expense, some other styles of coops may be made, equal in practical value with that shown in the cut, but nothing *superior* to that style, can, in my opinion, be constructed, hence that form is the *standard* for the whole world, as I deem it.

There are many considerations pertaining to the care and management of young chickens, that cannot be fully dwelt on here, and which must receive attention according to circumstances and the good judgment of their owner. I will, however, try to point out those of a most prominent nature. One of these considerations is, the distance coops should be set from each other; and that will depend on how many coops you have in use and the entire space you have to accommodate them. It often happens that chicks are killed by running into coops in which they belong. The breeder can guard against such a

result, in a good measure, by placing hens of different colors side by side, or by increasing the distance between coops, till no danger is manifest.

Mr. P. Melendy, President of the Ohio State Poultry Society, manages chickens as follows:

As soon as they are hatched, I take them and put them in a house that faces the southeast, with glass windows, so that the sun shines on them in the morning on this side. I have coops there about four feet square, with lattice fronts. I cover the floor with fine dry sand, and a little lime. I clean it out once a week. I keep them in these coops till two weeks old; I then transfer them to my chicken yard, which is adjoining to my chick house. I place the hen in a yard that is tight, with the exception of the front, which is lattice work, with doors to close at night and stormy weather. The coops face the south. My yard is a fine grass plat; the grass is kept mown close. I keep them in this yard till weaned. I then transfer to my large yard.

BREEDING.

The fundamental principle of breeding is, "*like produces like*," but still, this is not an unerring one. For instance, we may breed from any pure stock of fowls, and occasionally an extra fine specimen will appear, and by breeding such specimens, or pairs, we cannot obtain their like in all cases, but a portion of their progeny will conform to the general characteristics of the originals. Indeed, if we obtain a single pair in a whole season, equal in size, &c., to such extra pairs, we may consider ourselves fortunate. This rule refers, of course, to cases where such extra fine fowls much exceed their parents in weight, model, &c. If, however, we select the finest specimens produced by such fowls, as breeders, and continue, from season to season, to select the best samples, we shall ultimately arrive at our desire, and obtain a permanent improvement on the original stock.

This principle holds good in regard to all animate nature, and the fine extra large stock of animals exhibited at our fairs, will not, on this principle, produce their like, if they exceed in size, model, &c., their progenitors, unless, as before stated, it be a chance offspring. But we have no other way to improve our stock of swine, cattle, poultry, &c., and if we have a very short legged hen, and breed her with a mate conforming to her as nearly as possible, and continue to select the shortest legged fowls, from season to season, as breeders, in time we may produce a change of permanency in the length of their legs, yet

not a change that in *all* cases will produce short legs, as an occasional fowl will appear with long legs, like the original progenitors. The same in regard to any other feature in fowls. Indeed, it is asserted by one of my correspondents, in this work, as the reader may have noticed, that he professes to be able to change a black breed of ducks, without a white feather in them, to a *pure* white breed, in process of time, and *vice versa*. He assumes to be able to accomplish this singular result by selecting such as shall have an occasional white feather appear, for breeders, and then by selecting from their progeny such as show a few more white feathers, and so on to the end. It would require many years to accomplish this, but it can probably be done, if the originals are tinctured in the most minute degree with the blood of white ducks, so as to cause them to throw out an occasional white feather, but not otherwise. If, by accident or design, the most minute strain of impure blood gets into the veins of a single fowl in the yard, and that fowl is allowed to remain with the stock, such impurity will tincture the entire flock in time, and though not visible to the breeder, yet in subsequent years he will be surprised to see an occasional fowl of a color that does not legitimately belong to the breed, which is in consequence of the contamination of his stock years before, perhaps. This is technically called "*crying back*," and it is a principle that is true of man, as well as animals.

Some time during the eighteenth century, an English gentleman settled in the East Indies and married a native woman of unusual light complexion, by whom he had a son who could not be distinguished in features from the people of Great Britain. The wife died, and the father and son came to England to reside, where the latter married a lady of the nobility, and now, at this date, after several generations have passed away, an occasional mulatto turns up in the descendants of the son's family, to the horror of his or her relatives! Thus we see how obstinately and tenaciously a little impure blood adheres to each successive generation of all animate nature, and it behooves the breeder of all kinds of stock to beware how he allows any contamination of blood to tincture his animals or fowls, unless he desires to cross them.

"Breeding to a Feather."—This term applies to such fowls as always show the same distinctive colors, without any particular variation. The white and the speckled Dorkings, Guelderlands, Black Spanish, Black Polands, White Shanghaes,

Bolton Greys, or Creoles, Guinea fowls, native Dominique, and some few other breeds, are of this class. Any breed of fowls that are black, should show no white feathers, except in the case of Poland fowls that have white crests, and others of this class; the same in regard to white fowls. No black feathers should appear, if they are strictly pure.

A BREED NOT A VARIETY.—When we speak of *breeds*, we mean pure blooded fowls, and when we speak of *varieties*, we mean crosses; but this distinction is not always made by gentlemen in writing on fowls, and it is quite doubtful whether I have been able to adhere to this rule in all cases in this work, although I have endeavored to do so. The term *variety* should never be made to signify *pure* stock, of any kind.

BREEDS OF FOWLS NOT MADE BY CROSSING.—It has been asserted by some writers on poultry, that a pure breed may be made by crossing, and subsequently breeding for some years with care, so as to establish a distinct race of fowls. I deny this in toto. Every breed of fowls now in existence, has probably originated from races created from the beginning of the world, or at least, they possess distinct blood, never produced by the art of man. If a variety of fowls can be produced by careful cross-breeding, that shall manifest distinctive marks, so as apparently to be a pure breed, they are nevertheless a variety, and should be so called. Let no man say that he has produced, a pure breed of fowls from the mixture of blood, for it is not in his power to do it, and the many crosses that are being introduced as *breeds*, under new names, should receive the condemnation of the public. In this work, I have, I believe, informed my readers in every case where I have spoken of crosses, that such fowls either were, or had been alleged to be such, and in the absence of such information, it may be taken for granted, that the fowls are pure breeds. I would observe that all breeds do not "breed to a feather." The Brahma Pootras, buff and red Shanghaes, &c., throw out different shades frequently, yet they may be perfectly pure in blood. So it is with some distinct breeds of cattle, swine, &c. They show different colors, while no one disputes the purity of their blood. It is said that the speckled Dorkings originated in a cross, though in what particular cross is not fully settled, and these fowls bear the name of a *pure breed;* and, indeed, so they appear to be, but as we have no *positive* evidence of their being originally produced by a cross, we may safely call them

a *breed.* It is quite probable that some of our fowls that are now termed pure breeds, have some remote tincture of impure blood in their veins—such fowls as do not "breed to a feather" but in the absence of any proof of this, we cannot refuse to sanction their alleged purity.

In-and-In Breeding.—This is a branch of my present subject of great importance, yet the limits of such a work as this, do not allow of that elaborate and full exposition of many points that they ought in justice to receive. In the first place, I may give as the foundation of a great principle in nature, that all animal life deteriorates by a close consanguinity of relationship; hence, a fresh strain of blood from time to time, is absolutely necessary; but we must not go beyond the pale of the particular species for such change of blood. Fowls will do very well bred in-and-in for a few years, but it is not recommended to do so over four or five years, when a change should be effected by procuring cocks, rather than pullets, of the same breed, but from stock that bear no relationship to your fowls, unless it be very remote.

How to Prevent a Mixture of Blood.—In a previous allusion to this part of my subject, I stated that the eggs of fowls would not be pure till the second or third litter is laid, after the pullets are removed from impure stock, and placed with roosters of their respective breeds. This refers to cases where actual breeding has taken place with cocks of other breeds or varieties. Since writing the previous remarks here alluded to, I have noticed that Dr. Bennett, in one of his letters to me, corroborates my view of the case, and desires me to correct him in this matter. He says:

"I am in error on pages 199 and 200 of my book, in relation to breeding. Please correct it. In order to preserve distinct breeds, the fowls must be kept entirely separate, over one entire litter *certain*, and it is better to have them separate *two months*, at least, before breeding."

Dr. B. states in his work, the "Poultry Book," that the fowls will be pure that are raised from eggs laid immediately after separation, provided they are impregnated by a cock of the same breed as the hen, and this is an error, and what he refers to as wishing me to correct. Instead of the eggs being pure in such cases, they are tinctured to the *third* litter, more or less, with impure blood received from the impregnation of eggs while previously running with males of a different breed or variety.

CROSS-BREEDING.—In order to obtain a fresh strain of blood crossing is often resorted to, when the pure breeds are not obtainable, with fowls having no relation to the fowls in which the infusion of new blood is required; and, indeed, we often cross fowls for the express purpose of producing a distinct variety. Many breeders are of the opinion that some of the best fowls that we have are produced by judicious crossing of two valuable breeds, and I am of the same opinion; yet it is not advisable to cross fowls, and give them a distinct name, but they should always bear the appellation of their progenitors. For instance, if we cross a Shanghae cock with a Dorking pullet, they should always be called a "cross between the Shanghae and Dorking," which should be understood that the largest breed in the cross is the cock selected, but when two breeds are crossed, of about uniform size, it will of course, not be important from which breed the male is selected.

If we would produce the same modeled and colored fowls, and of the same uniform good qualities, we must always use the originals as breeders, because a second cross, or the chicks produced from eggs laid by the first cross, will not, as a general rule, be like the parents. To illustrate this subject more fully, let us suppose a case. We take a black Shanghae cock, and a white Dorking pullet, and breed them together. Their young may be variegated, perhaps beautifully penciled, but the same hues will not be produced by breeding this cross together, but a variety of colors will be thrown out; some will be nearly black, like the original cock, and some will be quite light-colored, like the original hen. Thus we see that like does *not* produce like in all cases.

In regard to the expediency and advantage of breeding from crosses, I have little to say. Sometimes we may thus breed fowls for many years, and produce a very choice variety, of all hues, of course, yet good layers, and finely modeled. At other times, if either of the originals was defective in model, health, or laying qualities, the progeny of the cross will, more or less, partake of such defects.

Crossing often produces larger and better fowls than either of the originals, and on this account, many breeders cross extensively; but we should never allow a *pure* breed, that is truly valuable, to become corrupted. If we cross, let it be done as an experiment, still retaining our pure breeds distinct and unmixed; and above all, never take a cross to our fairs,

dubbed a new name, to confuse and bewilder the public. This practice is becoming a nuisance at our poultry exhibitions.

TO DISTINGUISH EGGS THAT PRODUCE COCKS AND PULLETS.

I have never made any experiments in this matter, yet I am informed by many who have thus experimented, that they have, as a general rule, been able to select eggs that will produce cocks, and also those that produce pullets. The only reason why I have not endeavored to reduce this question to a "science," is, probably, the lack of leisure time to spend in such things, however important to the breeder. That such a knowledge of selecting eggs is very important, no one will deny, and I regret that we have no decisive rules for the breeder's guide, since cases often occur of a great disproportion of male birds, much to the disadvantage of the fowl raiser. A. T. Newbold, Esq., of Philadelphia, writes me in reference to this subject, as follows:

Any one with a little care, may know the eggs that will produce cocks, and those that will produce pullets. The cock, or male egg, has a quirl on one end, thus: [Here he draws diagrams of the shape of these quirls, that look like the signs for quantity in a physician's prescription.—AUTHOR.] The ends of eggs that produce pullets, are smooth. I have selected two hundred eggs on this plan, from which but one pullet was hatched, all the rest being cocks, and I think that the egg that produced the pullet was laid in the nest after I had made the selection, and set the eggs. Again, I have selected eggs that produced fifty pullets, without a single cock, and this I consider proof positive.

This appears to settle the case, truly; and I hope that breeders will experiment till all doubts shall be removed as to the way of distinguishing the cock and pullet eggs. At present, I fear that few will have as good success as Mr. Newbold had.

TO DISTINGUISH EGGS THAT ARE IMPREGNATED.

A correspondent of the Northern Farmer says that he can always tell when an egg will hatch, and when not. He says:

All those having setting hens would do well to take notice of the following remarks, and they will have a chicken for every egg they set. Take eggs not more than three or four days old, and have a candle or lamp, hold the egg in one hand, with the broad end upwards, close to the candle, place the other hand on the top of the egg, and

you will immediately perceive the incubation end. Some people can tell a pullet from a rooster. The mark for a rooster is crosswise, and a pullet lengthwise. Another way is to place your tongue on the large end of the egg, and you will perceive a strong heat, if fresh and good, and the less heat if old and doubtful. Eggs put by for hatching should never be put in a very damp cellar, as the dampness destroys this heat.

FOWLS KEPT IN LARGE NUMBERS.

The question "*can fowls be made profitable when kept in large numbers?*" is still unsettled. Several gentlemen are now engaged in keeping fowls extensively, in various parts of the country, but nothing definite as to net profits has transpired, so as to enable me to enlighten the public in the premises. I now refer to keeping fowls extensively for market, and for their eggs, when their value is at ordinary rates. We all know that fowls at $5 to $20 a pair, and eggs at $1 50 to $6 a dozen, must be profitable, so long as such prices continue; but we want to know whether one can keep 500 to 5000 fowls of any breed to advantage, and sell them at the ordinary rates of fifty to sixty cents a pair, dressed, and eggs at ten to twelve cents a dozen.

There are several drawbacks to success in such a business, and one of the most disadvantage, is the liability all large numbers of fowls have to contract contagious diseases. A gentleman, some few years ago, erected a "henery" on Long Island, near New York, to accommodate 1000 fowls, and he purchased that number, and placed them therein, and constructed all necessary conveniences, but in less than a year he lost some $200 by the operation, besides his investment in fixtures, &c., and he abandoned the business.

It has been fully shown, that a large number of fowls in one enclosure, can never be made as productive, in the ratio of numbers, as a small number, and here lies the great barrier to success. If, however, we should enclose a very large field, and erect a number of separate buildings, and so arrange matters that the fowls would always have an abundance of room in their rambles, and on their perches, being well ventilated, &c., I am of the opinion that they may be made profitable, if a proper economy is manifested in providing their food, which should all be raised by the breeder; and large quantities of root crops should be grown, to boil and mix with meal, to be fed at certain seasons. A stream of water should run through

the premises, and every thing should be kept purified with lime, ashes, &c., that would be liable to become infested with vermin.

A hospital should be provided, to which diseased fowls should be promptly removed, on the first symptoms of disease becoming apparent. With such management, or somewhat similar to it, I believe that large numbers of fowls may be kept to advantage.

NUMBER OF EGGS LAID BY A HEN IN A YEAR.

Our common breeds usually lay from eighty to one hundred eggs in a year, as an average of what a flock of twenty to fifty will produce. We often see notices in the papers of instances where much larger numbers are laid, but such cases are exceptions to the general rule, so far as our native varieties are concerned. Some of the Asiatic breeds have been known to lay two hundred or more eggs, in a year, and it is a settled point, that some of our imported fowls do much exceed, in the number of eggs laid, any of our native tribes.

Some people take pains to force their fowls, by artificial heat, to lay in the winter season, at the expense of barrenness in the spring, to a certain extent. I am inclined to believe that we had better let nature take her course, and be satisfied with what eggs our hens will lay, without artificial heat; but I recommend warm winter quarters, however, but not to be heated above the ordinary temperature of the atmosphere in well protected buildings, such as are partially under ground, or have double walls in cold climates, or are filled in between the studding with sawdust or tan-bark, if not plastered.

LIME FOR FOWLS.

Lime is quite necessary for fowls, as most people are aware. The following selections are of interest:

All domestic fowls, as well as other animals, require more or less lime. It is the chief constituent of their bones, and probably useful in many cases, in small quantities, as a condiment. In addition to these purposes, fowls which lay eggs require lime for the formation of the egg-shells. Ordinarily, fowls which have their liberty can procure sufficient lime to satisfy their wants. It is contained in the grain on which they feed, and in the stones and earth which they swallow.

But in winter, when fowls have less access to the ground, or when they are confined in small enclosures, they have less opportunity to

select the mineral substances which they require. Hence an artificial supply becomes necessary. How shall this be given? By placing the articles within their reach, so that they may take, voluntarily, just the quantity to which they are prompted by nature. Place slacked lime, broken into pieces the size of peas, on shelves, where the fowls can readily pick it up. By slacking lime in a vessel, in considerable water, so that it will form a paste, and letting it dry, it can readily be pounded into the desired form, to suit the fowls best. —*Ex.*

During the last season, Mr. Joseph Wilcox, of this town, having occasion to administer lime water to a sick horse, inadvertently left a pail of the preparation in his barn, which remained there for some months, serving as a favorite drink for his hens. He soon afterwards found that the laying of his hens was apparently increased to a considerable extent. Being convinced of the importance of the (to him) new discovery, he has, during the present season, kept his hens constantly supplied with lime water, placed in troughs within their convenient access, and the result was an increase in eggs of nearly four fold, as compared with previous experience.

He is willing to share the benefit of the experiment with his neighbors, if they choose to try it, and hence this publication. The newness of the discovery, (though it may not now be new to all,) is claimed only as applicable to the mode of imparting the lime in this case; its use in another form for the same purpose, having been previously understood by many.—*Wayne Sentinel.*

There is no evidence that the *lime* caused the hens to lay, in the above case. I think that lime furnished in old mortar is sufficient, taken from walls that are being removed.

VALUE OF RED PEPPERS TO POULTRY.

The value of red peppers in the food of poultry, occasionally, does not admit of a doubt. The following is clipped from one of the journals of the day:

I do a small business in raising and putting up garden seeds. One year ago last fall, as I was clearing out some red pepper seeds in my back yard, I threw the shucks and chaff promiscuously about. I soon observed my hens picking them up and swallowing them with great avidity. They soon commenced laying eggs, though they had laid none for a month. I fed them regularly two or three times a week, since then, with red pepper, and they have never stopped laying, summer or winter, spring or fall, except while they were hatching their chickens; and I am confident, from more than a year's experience, that by this method, hens may be made to lay the year round.

SALT INJURIOUS TO FOWLS.

Salt will speedily kill fowls if thrown out in large quantities, such as the emptying of meat or fish barrels in their way.

Salt fish is equally destructive, and should never be thrown where they can get it.

POULTRY MANURE—ITS VALUE, ETC.

The most valuable fertilizer that we have, is poultry manure. Read the following, and profit by it:

POULTRY MANURE.—This is the most valuable of the farm manures, and is entitled to great care in its collection and use. Beyond the amount of water it contains, it is as valuable as guano, and therefore should never be sold by practical farmers to morocco dressers, at twenty-five cents per bushel. The poultry-house should be underlaid with charcoal dust, when it can be procured, so as to receive the hen manure as fast as made. The surface of this charcoal dust should occasionally be raked or removed off to one corner, with a portion of the dung. This may be continued until the manure is required for use, when it should be thoroughly mixed with ten times its bulk of soil, before being applied to crops. Where charcoal dust cannot be procured, well decomposed swamp muck, plaster of Paris, or even aluminous clay, may be frequently dusted over the floor of the poultry house, to be mixed with this manure. The object of all this is to receive and retain the ammonia, so as to prevent its liberation from injuring the health of the inmates of the poultry house. All animals, man included, suffer from breathing the effluvia arising from their excretia, and this is particularly true of the feathered tribes. Their natural habits in the wild state, cause them to pass through the upper strata of the atmosphere, and with such velocity as to readily rid themselves of the noxious gases given off the surface of their bodies, and to be entirely beyond any deleterious influence from the fumes of their excretia. We should, therefore, in the poultry-houses, make such arrangements as will prevent the poultry from inhaling these deleterious gases.—*Prof. Mapes.*

VALUE OF POULTRY MANURE.—It is lamentable, and disgusting even, to see what a waste is going on in this country of the richest and most valuable manure ever known. We are importing shipload after shipload of guano, (sea-bird manure,) while hundreds of tons of poultry manure which is asserted to be equal in value—is suffered to go to waste in the United States. Each farmer's poultry yard produces so little, that it is suffered to go to waste, and thus the country loses *over a million* dollars annually.

Having learned the value of poultry manure, we suppose now our readers would like to know what is the best method to save it.

First, build a poultry house, if it be no more than a rough scaffolding of poles or slabs, laid upon crotches, forming a double pitch roof,

with end boards in winter, to keep out the wind and driving storms. Under this, place parallel roosts, and the manure in the night will all drop down into a narrow row beneath. Here place a light loam about a foot deep, rather wider and longer than the roost, and give it a sprinkling of plaster of Paris an inch thick. When this is covered with manure an inch deep, give it a layer of loam four inches deep, and another sprinkling of an inch of plaster, and so continue. In the spring, mix all well together, keep it free from the rain, and use it at the rate of one pint to a hill of corn, or a corresponding quantity for cucumbers, squashes, pumpkins, melons, peas, onions, strawberries, or any other fruit, vegetable, or grain, requiring rich manure, and our word for it, you will have a crop of a superior quality. Thus you will become one out of the many, who is desirous to benefit himself, and assist in saving more than a million of dollars annually to the country.—*American Agriculturalist.*

Mr. Moses considers the manure of his fowls of much importance, and takes care that it is all saved and applied to his crops. Under the building in which the fowls roost, is a cellar, into which all the manure is put. In spring, a few weeks before planting time, the manure is worked over, and mixed with plaster—sometimes with plaster and ashes in equal proportions—using enough of these articles to make the manure so dry as to pulverize thoroughly.

This domestic guano, of which Mr. M. sometimes has the quantity of three hundred bushels in a season, produces a powerful effect on the growth of Indian corn. His mode of applying it is to drop a handful in each hill, which is then covered half an inch or more with earth, in order to prevent the seed from coming in immediate contact with the manure, which experience has shown would prevent its germination. Mr. M. stated that he had tried this compost in comparison with good hog manure, by applying each to corn in the same field and on similar soil. On one part, half a shovel full of hog manure was put in a hill, and on the other part, a handful of the hen manure compost. The crop was best where the latter was used, and the succeeding crop, (which was oats,) showed the same result in favor of the hen manure.

On another occasion, he manured ten acres with the hen manure, which produced sixty bushels of corn to the acre. On a part of this piece, he used the manure only on alternate rows, leaving the intermediate rows with no application. The ears were "mere nubbins" on the rows that had no manure. He planted pumpkins on a row that had no manure, and on another row that had the proportion given to the rest of the field. The row which had no manure, produced no pumpkins of any value; the other produced fifty-one fair sized, good pumpkins.

Mr. M. stated that his son was engaged with another person in the poultry trade, and that in the winter of 1849–50 they sent between twenty and thirty tons to New York and Boston.—*Selected.*

CAPONIZING FOWLS.

The art of caponizing was practiced many centuries ago by the ancients, and it is now practiced to some extent in all countries. The French seem to be the most expert in the business. Richardson says:

The practice of the French country women is to select the close of the spring, or the beginning of autumn, as well as fine weather, for the performance of their work. The parts necessary to be removed, being fixed in the abdomen, and attached to the spine at the region of the loins, it is absolutely necessary to *open the abdominal cavity* for the purpose of their extraction. The bird should be healthy, fasting, and about three months old. He is then to be secured by an assistant, upon his back, his belly upwards, and his head down, that the intestines, &c., may fall up toward the breast; the tail is to be towards the operator. The right leg is then carried along the body, and the left brought backwards, and held in this position, so as to leave the left flank perfectly bare, for it is there that the incision is to be made. The said incision is to be directed from before backwards, transversely to the length of the body, at the middle of the flank, and slightly to the side, between the ends of the breast-bone and the vent. Having plucked away the feathers from the space where it is intended to make the incision, you take a bistoury or a razor, and cut through the skin, abdominal muscles, and peritoneum; it is better to do this at two or more cuts, in order to avoid the possibility of wounding the intestines—a casualty that would, in most cases, be attended with fatal results. The intestines present themselves at the orifice, but you must not suffer them to come out; on the contrary, you press them gently aside, so as to have room for action. I may observe, that the incision should have been sufficiently large to admit of the fore-finger, previously well oiled, being passed into the abdomen, and carried carefully towards the lumbar region of the spine; you will there find what you are in search of. You first reach the *left* substance, which you detach with your nail, or with your finger bent hook-fashion; you then arrive at the right, which you treat similarly; bring both substances forth; you finally return the intestines, sow up the wound with a silk thread—a very few stitches will suffice—and smear the place with a little fresh butter. Some persons recommend the amputation of the comb, close to the skull of the newly made capon; but this is surely an unnecessary piece of torture—a useless addition to the sufferings of the poor bird. The proposed object of this amputation is to insure the recognition of the capon amongst his co-mates of the poultry-yard. Were such a distinctive mark necessary, it strikes us that the operation must have been, so to speak, thrown away; inasmuch as the superior size and bulk of the capon should, of themselves, be sufficiently indicative of his identity; but independent of these, I may observe that the *comb* of the capon does not grow to any size, and always retains a *pallid* color. Should it be proposed to caponize cocks belonging to varieties not natu-

rally possessing combs, it will surely be found, at the very most, sufficient to cut the tail feathers down to a stump. In some parts of the continent, the caponizers resort to still more unnecessary brutality. They cut off the spurs of the poor caponized bird, and making an incision in its comb, as it were *plant* them in it; they are so held for about twenty minutes—in short, just until the blood coagulates; they then become not merely permanently adherent, but actually *grow*. The less, however, said about these very, and needlessly inhuman practices, the better.

To return to our more immediate subject: The process having been performed as above described, the bird is placed in a warm house, *where there are no perches*, as, if such appliances were present, the newly-made capon might very probably injure himself in his attempts to perch, and perhaps even tear open the sutures, and possibly occasion the operation, usually simple and free from danger, to terminate fatally. For about a week, the food of the bird should be soft oat-meal porridge, and that in small quantities, alternated with bread steeped in milk; he may be given as much pure water as he will drink, but I recommend that it be *tepid*, or at least, that the *chill* be taken off it. At the end of a week, or, at the farthest, ten days, the bird, if he has been previously of a sound, vigorous constitution, will be all right, and may be turned out into the walk common to all your fowls.

Chinese Mode of Making Capons.—The Chinese, who are very expert in the art of making capons, use the following method: The wings of the fowl being folded back till they meet, the left foot of the operator is placed on them, the fowl being laid on its left side. The great toe of the right foot is placed on its legs; the feathers are then plucked off by the side; an incision, about an inch in length, commencing about an inch from the back-bone, and extending obliquely downwards, is made with a knife, the cutting part of which is beveled to a point, like a dissecting scalpel. This incision is carefully carried through the skin, muscles, and membranes, till the intestines are laid bare, while flat, blunt hooks, are put into the incision, which is extended and kept open by the elasticity of a bamboo or whale-bone; the intestines are then pushed aside with a pair of forceps, which are used to lay hold of the stone, when it is by this means brought into view, while there is passed over it, through a bamboo or elder tube, a horse-hair, which is drawn backwards and forwards through the tube till the spermatic chord is cut through; the stone is then scooped out. The other stone is removed in the same manner. No blood issues from the spermatic chords, nor does the animal appear to feel pain. The hooks are then removed, the wound is closed up, the feathers which have been plucked off are stuck upon the wound with the blood, and the wing being put down on it, the animal walks off as if nothing had happened. Young cocks, three months old, are made choice of for the operation, which must, if possible, be performed before July, as it has been remarked that capons made later than this, never prove fine.—*Dickson.*

DISEASES OF FOWLS.

The diseases of poultry are less understood than those of any other living thing of equal service to man; but the subject is now of great importance, for the reason that we would as soon lose a cow, in many instances, as a fowl. This is no fancy sketch. I was offered *fifteen dollars* recently, by a gentleman, for one of my Brahma pullets, and I refused to sell her. The next day she died of a disease common to fowls in the laying season. She was "*egg-bound*," as it is called. The egg could not be discharged, owing, apparently, to its having got out of its proper position in some way. It was of the ordinary size, and I tried to use artificial means to relieve her, but without effect. There was a membrane, or bag that enclosed it, which admitted of no egress, and the hen lingered about twenty hours, and then died.

I will now quote the best authorities on the most common diseases to which fowls of mature age are subject:

INDIGESTION.—Cases of indigestion among fowls are common, and deserve attention according to the causes from which they proceed. A change of food will often produce *crop-sickness*, as it is called, when the fowl takes but little food, and suddenly loses flesh. Such disease is of little consequence, and shortly disappears. When it requires attention at all, all the symptoms will be removed by giving their diet in a warm state. Sometimes, however, a fit of indigestion threatens severe consequences, especially if long continued. Every effort should be made to ascertain the cause, and the remedy must be governed by the circumstances of the case. Mowbray mentions a hen manifesting all the symptoms of indigestion, in whose crop beans were found, which had obstructed it long enough to present marks of vegetation. An incision was made, the wound healed, and health was restored. Generally, affections of this kind, as in the human species, proceed from over-feeding or want of exercise. The *symptoms* are, heaviness, moping, keeping away from the nest, and want of appetite.

Remedy.—Lessen the quantity of food, and oblige the fowl to exercise in an open walk. Give some powdered cayenne and gentian, mixed with the usual food. Iron-rust, mixed with soft food, or diffused in water, is an excellent tonic, and is indicated when there is atrophy or diminution of flesh. It may be combined with oats or grain. In England, it is said that milk-warm ale has a good effect when joined to the diet of diseased fowls.—*Dr. Bennett.*

COSTIVENESS.—The existence of this disorder will become apparent by observing the unsuccessful attempts of the fowl to relieve itself. It frequently proceeds from continued feeding of dry diet, without access to green vegetables. Indeed, without the use of these, or some

such substitute, as mashed potatoes, costiveness is certain to ensue. The want of a sufficient supply of good water, will also produce the disease.

Remedy.—Soaked bread, with warm skimmed milk, is a mild remedial agent, and will usually suffice. Boiled carrots, or cabbage, are more efficient. A meal of earth-worms is sometimes advisable, and hot potatoes, mixed with bacon-fat, are said to be excellent. Castor oil and burned butter, will relieve the most obstinate cases, though a clyster of oil may be sometimes required in addition, to effect a cure. —*Ib.*

Diarrhœa.—There are times when fowls dung more loosely than at others, especially when they have been fed on green or soft food; but this may occur without the presence of disease. But should this state deteriorate into a confirmed and continued laxity, immediate attention is required, to guard against fatal effects. The causes of diarrhea are dampness, undue acidity in the bowels, or the presence or irritating matter there.

The *symptoms* are, lassitude and emaciation, and, in very severe cases, the voiding of calcareous matter, white, streaked with yellow. This resembles the yolk of a stale egg, and sticks to the feathers near the vent. It becomes acrid, from the presence of ammonia, and causes inflammation, which extends speedily throughout the intestines.

Remedy.—This, of course, depends upon the cause. When the disease is brought on by a diet of green or soft food, the food must be changed, and water given sparingly. When it arises from undue acidity, chalk mixed with meal, is advantageous, but rice flour boluses are most to be depended on. Dr. Handel, of Mayence, in cases of chronic looseness, recommends water impregnated with iron rust, with great confidence. Alum-water of moderate strength, is also beneficial.

In cases of *bloody flux*, boiled rice and milk, given warm, with a little magnesia or chalk, may be given with success.—*Ib.*

Asthma.—This disease, common among fowls, seems to differ in characteristics sufficiently to authorize a distinction into two species. In one it appears to be caused by an obstruction of the air-cells, by an accumulation of phlegm, which interferes with the exercise of their functions. The fowl labors for breath, in consequence of not being able to take in the usual quantity of air at an inspiration. The capacity of the lungs is thereby diminished, the lining membrane of the windpipe becomes thickened, and its minute branches are more or less affected. These effects may reasonably be attributed, as Richardson thinks, to the fact, that, as our poultry are originally natives of tropical climates, however well they may appear acclimated, they, nevertheless, require a more equable temperature than is afforded, except by artificial means.

Another variety of asthma is induced by fright, or over excitement. It is sometimes produced by chasing fowls to catch them, by seizing them suddenly, or by their fighting with each other. In these cases, a blood vessel is often ruptured, and sometimes one or more of the air-cells.

The *symptoms* are short breathing, opening of the beak often, and

for a space together, heaving and panting of the chest; and in case of a rupture of a blood-vessel, a drop of blood appearing on the beak.

Remedy.—Confirmed asthma is difficult to cure. For the disease in its incipient state, it is recommended that the fowl be kept warm, and be treated with repeated doses of hippo-powder and sulphur mixed with butter, with the addition of a small quantity of cayenne pepper.—*Ib.*

Moulting.—Although it cannot be properly denominated a disease, still some attention is necessary in giving care to your poultry during that period, particularly if it advances into the cold or damp season, so as to have them warmly and dryly kept, and well fed with stimulating food—hemp seed, sunflower seed, caraway seed, and a small quantity of black or red pepper; the more warmly or comfortably kept, the quicker the moult. Old fowls moult late, and consequently do not lay till advanced in the summer; while early pullets will moult early, and lay all the winter, if warmly kept and well fed. Fowls occasionally make the appearance of losing their feathers before the actual moult, and appear miserably naked. The remedy is, keep them comfortable, and when the moult comes on, their proper clothing will be resumed in their new coat. A want of feathers is sometimes effected by the fowls picking the young or bleeding feathers from their fellows, which they get so much attached to, that they continue to pilfer each succeeding young feather, until they cause such inflammation, as death, in some cases, will ensue. The remedy is, separate such fowls until the feathers come to maturity, when they will discontinue to pull them out.—*Nolan.*

Roup.—This is the most obstinate and most fatal disease we have to contend with. It generally attacks fowls from October to April. The first symptoms are a difficulty in breathing; then follows a swelling of the head; a discharge of fœtid matter from the nostrils ensues, and the fowl pines away and dies, unless taken in hand on the first appearance of the disease. This disease is very contagious, and when it appears, it is the terror of the breeder, if he have many fowls. I would, therefore, recommend the most watchful care, as soon as cold weather sets in, and the breeder should listen in his poultry-house, at least twice a week, as his hens get settled on their perches, and every fowl that breathes with difficulty, should be removed immediately to a warm, dry, well ventilated room, and treated as follows:

To a quart of strong cider vinegar, add one pint of cider-brandy or whiskey, in which dissolve an ounce of assafœtida. Keep this mixture bottled tight, and when used, heat it, and apply as a wash three times a day to the fowl's head, and as warm as it can be applied. Wash the entire head thoroughly; then change the food of the fowl to the fine grains, such as

barley and wheat, with an occasional soft feed, in which a little flour of sulphur may be mixed, also a little finely pulverized charcoal. Give plenty of gravel, pure water, and fresh air, and in nine cases in ten you will effect a cure, if you administer the remedy in season, but after a certain stage of the disease, nothing can effect a cure.

If all the ingredients of the above remedy cannot be obtained immediately, the vinegar and spirits alone will be of great service, and if neither cider-brandy nor whisky can be obtained, get any kind of spirituous liquor for a temporary use. A correspondent of Dr. Bennett, who has used assafœtida and vinegar with success, writes me under date of October, 1852, as follows:

I would suggest to you, that the only remedy I ever found for what is termed *roup*, in poultry, when a fœtid discharge at the nostrils takes place, is to squeeze each nostril out by pressure with the thumb, commencing under the eyes, and carrying the thumb down toward the beak, which will remove all the discharge, then sponge the head with assafœtida dissolved in vinegar, and squeeze a drop or two in each nostril, and finish by tarring their heads from above the nostrils back to the top of the head, and keep them tarred until relieved. One or two applications will generally suffice.

Mr. Giles, of Providence, who has had forty years experience as an extensive breeder, uses the following remedy. He says:

My method with the *roup*, or swelled head, which, by the way, is caused by a cold, is as follows: As soon as discovered, if in warm weather, remove the infected ones to some well ventilated apartment or yard; if in winter, to some warm place; then give a dessert spoonful of castor oil; wash their heads with warm castile soap-suds, and let them remain until next morning, *fasting*. Scald for them Indian meal, adding two and a half ounces of Epsom salts for ten hens, or in proportion for a lesser or larger number; give it warm, and repeat the dose in a day or two, if they do not recover.

Mr. Melendy, of Mount Healthy, Ohio, writes me on this subject:

Of all the diseases that I have had to contend with, I think the roup is the worst. It is contagious. Of this I am perfectly satisfied, that if a fowl in a flock has it, that all will take it, unless the diseased one be removed. Roup is somewhat like the distemper among dogs. My fowls are affected thus: very difficult in breathing, gaping, rattling in the throat, swelling of the head, feverish, eyes swollen, with a thin, slimy matter, oozing from them, and it sometimes closes them up, and blindness is the result. There is a discharge from the nose of a thick, fœtid matter, that is offensive to the smell. The fowl is dull and mopy, and suffers much. If taken in time, it can be cured, but if

suffered to run too long, better kill the fowl and put it out of its misery, even if it cost $20. My remedy is as follows:

Take the fowl and put it in a warm, dry place; wash the head and throat with warm rain water and castile soap; then take spirits of turpentine and lard, mix well, and rub this mixture on the head and throat thoroughly once a day, and be particular to clean the nostrils well. I have found this remedy to be the best I have ever tried and I have tried all that are in the different poultry books, without doing any good.

Mr. Melendy has given a very truthful description of this disease, and his remedy is worthy of a trial, as he is a very extensive breeder, and his opinion is entitled to respect.

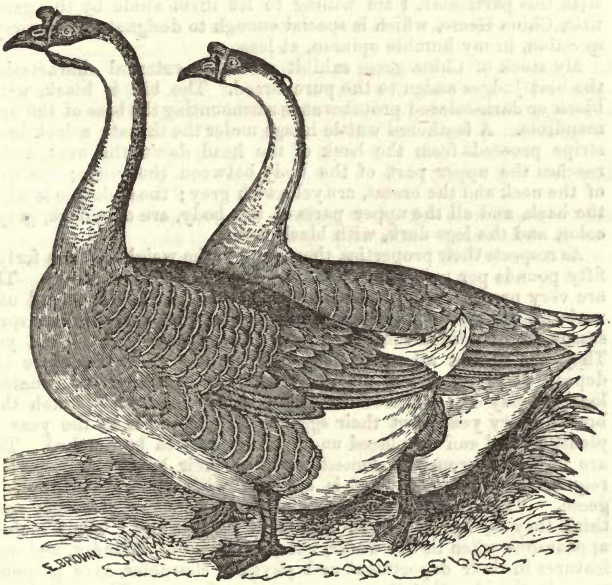
Fever.—This disease fowls are subject to at the period of hatching. The remedy is light food, and some asperient medicine, such as castor oil, or burnt butter.

Lice.—There is nothing more destructive to the health and prosperity of fowls, than lice. The best general preventive, is to have a box some two to four feet square, and eight inches high, placed under cover, and sunk half its depth in the ground; then fill it half full of fine, dry sand, mixed with an equal quantity of wood ashes. The fowls will wallow in this, and free themselves from lice. The following communication from Mr. H. L. Devereaux, formerly of Boston, is a new and valuable remedy:

As to the vermin, we have found something, this past summer, which, if not *new*, is at least good, and a sure remedy. I allude to *flour of Sulphur*. My way of using it is this. I purchased from a tin store, a dredging box, (such as all good housekeepers have to keep flour in, with which to flour their meat,) filled it with the sulphur, and then sprinkled it upon the fowls, under their wings, and also upon the walking, roosting places, &c. For the Shanghae, we prefer flat strips of board, say four to six inches wide, and where these are used, the sulphur sprinkled upon them will effectually keep away the lice. Plenty of quick or air-slacked lime is well to be freely used in the houses. I will relate to you one instance of its good effect. Going into my poultry house one morning, observing a sitting hen come off, I noticed that she looked very pale, much more so than usual. At once I knew the cause. Opening the lid of the box containing the eggs, such a sight as presented itself—the eggs literally covered with lice. My dredging box was immediately put into requisition, and a plentiful supply of sulphur sprinkled over them; then taking the hen, we gave her plenty under the wings, and under the feathers all over her; put her upon the eggs; at first, she hesitated, but after a few minutes, settled herself down upon the eggs, and at the end of her time, she hatched out all but one or two of the eggs, and reared all the chicks. Had I not observed her as I did, the lice would have killed her.

PART II.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DIFFERENT BREEDS AND VARIETIES OF WATER-FOWL, TURKEYS, PEA AND GUINEA FOWLS.



CHINA (OR TCHIN TCHU) GEESE.

Mr. C. R. Belcher, of East Randolph, Massachusetts, who has been one of the most successful breeders of the above denominated variety of geese, (or what is popularly considered to have a close affinity to the *Anser* tribe,) furnishes the following particulars respecting them:

The China Geese, which I have bred for some time past, are generally considered natives of Hong Kong, and are very often named

after that place; but those who have been in that region, and have had inducements to observe the fact, concur in stating that there is no ground whatever for the assumption that Hong Kong is their native place. There are no descriptions of tame geese there, and no semi-domesticated or wild varieties that answer the description, in any particular, of the China geese. The breed that I own, which possess great merit, were brought from Tchin Tchu, and have, therefore, the best right to the possession of the euphonious title associating them with the place of their origin. As the cultivation of *hard names* for fowls, has, of late, been greatly in vogue, the correction of this Hong Kong error may be a matter of consequence, entitling me to some credit as its discoverer. Let my deserts be what they may connected with this particular, I am willing to let them abide by the general title, China Geese, which is special enough to designate the variety in question, in my humble opinion, at least.

My stock of China geese exhibit all those external characteristics the best judges assign to the pure breed. The bill is black, with a black or dark-colored protuberance surmounting the base of the upper mandible. A feathered wattle hangs under the throat; a dark brown stripe proceeds from the back of the head down the neck, until it reaches the upper part of the body between the wings; the fronts of the neck and the breast, are yellowish grey; the abdomen is white; the back, and all the upper parts of the body, are of a dark, greyish color, and the legs dark, with black feet.

As respects their properties, they grow to the weight of from forty to fifty pounds per pair at mature size—say at two years of age. They are very productive; in fact, in this particular, they excel all other varieties I know. They commence laying very early in the spring season, and continue the production of eggs until late in the year. They are not at all erratic in their notions as to the place they deposit their eggs, but generally confine themselves to whatever locality may be prepared for them to lay in. They hatch three broods every year; but their eggs in the early part of the year are plentiful, and can be placed under other fowls to be hatched. They are hardy, thoroughly domesticated in their habits, and have no requirements beyond what is common with other descriptions of geese. Various authors class them in the category of swans, and I think they do so with some degree of justification. Their majestic appearance when in the water, the peculiarity of their cry, and other features in their deportment and physical character, give preponderance to the idea that they are a species of swan. They are beautifully ornamental, and greatly prized in that capacity. They have never been in our markets for sale, as food, but those who have eaten them have been satisfied of their superiority for the table. At present, they are too rare and valuable to become, immediately, an article of consumption. Ultimately, however, they will become a very eligible article in the produce of the poultry raiser. At sixteen weeks old, goslings (or cygnets, as the case may be) attain to the weight of fourteen pounds, dressed, and this is by no means a rare thing.

While I have substantial reason to believe that my stock is inferior

in purity to none, I am not sure that the following extract from the report of the judges at the New England Society's Show of Poultry, in 1851, at Fitchburg Railroad Depot, Boston, is not applicable to it. The "top-knot," or feathery tuft, which appears on the necks of the females, in particular, and sometimes on those of the males, of my stock, is the same as that specified in the extract. This mark you will observe on the neck of the female, in the portraits accompanying this communication. The judges say:

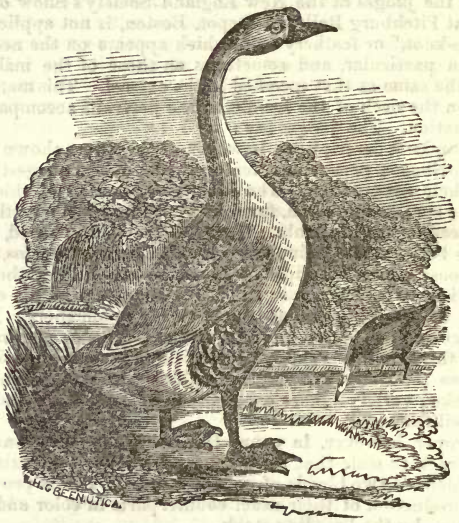
"The top-knot descriptions, however, as they were shown by nearly every contributor, presented a feature which might suggest a vagrant cross in their composition. The indefinite location of this top-knot among the specimens shown, furnished your committee with the suggestions leading to this doubt. The geese so distinguished, appear to be a cross between the China goose and the *anas melanctus*, or Black-Backed goose. The descriptions given by the best authors, of the latter variety, would augur as much. It is a native of the country to the north of the Ganges, but is now rarely found there. It is common, however, in Ceylon and Madagascar, whence specimens have come to this country. The characteristics, in many particulars, of the Chinese (or Hong Kong) geese, tally with those assigned to the Black-Backed variety—more especially in color of body and feet, and wedged tail feathers."

It is proper, however, in connection with the correctness of the above extract, to state that the cross—presuming it to exist—is one that has blended two bloods of equal strength. This is proved in the *repeated* production of their exact counterparts in color and physical construction, by the breeding stock.

I hope I have made myself intelligible to you—an object I have done my best to arrive at.

Yours, &c., C. R. Belcher.

East Randolph, Mass., 13th Dec., 1852.



D. T. KING'S CHINESE GEESE.

The above portrait is said to be a very good representation of China geese owned by Mr. King, from whom I have received the following description:

MR. MINER—*Sir:* It is somewhat remarkable that this rare and beautiful bird, so striking in its appearance, should have escaped so generally the notice of the different writers of systematic works on ornithology. Doubtless the uncertainty that has existed as to its correct name, and true native country, may be one cause of this. Like the Poland fowl, it has been furnished with a variety of names, and original native places. Some call it the "India Goose," others, the "Mountain Goose;" Bewick calls it the "Swan Goose." The tubercle at the base of the bill, the unusual length of neck, and its graceful carriage in the water, would certainly give it some claim to relationship with the "aristocracy of lake and river." Cuvier calls it the "Chinese Swan," and says, "that it cannot be separated from the true swan." A goose, however, it decidedly is, as is clear from its terrestrial habits, its powerful bill, and its diet of grass, and it is now generally admitted that it came from China. Indeed, from its general aspect, the dark brown stripe down its neck, its small bright eye, its wild, harsh voice, its majestic step, and its seldom being in a hurry, would perfectly harmonize in a picture of Chinese life; it would group

well in an extended landscape on a placid river, beside a boat filled with shaven fishermen: but, however, it matters not what country it came from, it deserves to rank in the first class of ornamental poultry. It is not only valuable for its beauty and prolificness, but for its early breeding and aptitude to fatten. They breed from three to four times a year. They begin to lay in November, if the season be mild, and in January the goslings are hatched, and if kept in a warm, dry place, may be fit for the table in April or May. I have not been very successful in hatching them, owing somewhat, as I fancy, to my having no water for them, except a running stream. A quiet lake or pond, I believe to be more to their taste, and perhaps more conducive to the fecundity of their eggs. A China goose will lay from fifty to sixty-five eggs in a year, under favorable circumstances, are steady sitters, and will rear a brood well, if allowed their own way; no great care being necessary on the part of the owner.

D. T. KING.

Waterville, Oneida co., N. Y., July, 1852.

WHITE CHINESE, OR SWAN GOOSE.

Of this most beautiful variety, which approaches nearer to the swan than any other goose, Mr. Dixon says:

The white China goose is of a spotless, pure white—a very few grey feathers have since appeared—more swan like than the brown variety, with a bright orange-colored bill, and a large, orange-colored knob at its base. It is a particularly beautiful bird, either in or out of the water, its neck being long, slender, and gracefully arched when swimming. It breeds three or four times in the season, but I was not

successful with them, owing, as I fancied, to my having no water for them, except a rapid running stream. A quiet lake I believe to be more to their taste, and more conducive to the fecundity of the eggs.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

This bird deserves to rank in the first class of ornamental poultry, and would be very prolific under favorable circumstances.

Dr. E. Wight, Dedham, Mass., is in possession of a pair of this variety, recently imported.

AMERICAN WILD GOOSE.

Who is there that has not seen these noble birds in their migrations from the solitary lakes and rivers of Canada, to the warmer regions of the South? They seem to be possessed of a rare instinct in the order in which they take their flight. A leader, an old gander of sagacious demeanor, is chosen to take the lead, and if he be killed on the wing, his followers break their order of flight, and alight to choose another leader. In the spring they return to their haunts in the waters of the undisturbed wilderness to breed. They even extend their flight as far north as the coast of Spitzbergen and Labrador, and many are found in the Hudson Bay territory.

BREMEN GEESE.

It is quite doubtful whether we have any more valuable breed of geese than this noble stock. They were first imported to this country in 1820, from the interior of Germany, and

being shipped at Bremen, they derive their name from that circumstance. They are a pure white, weigh from thirty to fifty pounds a pair alive, lay early, raise but one brood in a season; flesh, excellent; feathers, soft and abundant; of lofty, noble carriage, and all in all, a splendid water-fowl. I purchased a pair in the fall of 1852, that were the admiration of every one who saw them; far superior to any other Bremen geese in this vicinity. The goose weighed twenty pounds, and the gander near thirty pounds. There are but few such specimens in this country.

THE AFRICAN, OR GUINEA GOOSE.

Buffon says, in his natural history, that this breed of geese exceed all others in *size*, but I think the Bremen geese equal them. Mr. John Giles, Providence, R. I., imported some fine specimens, of which he says:

They stand forth first of their race, are brown-grey on the back, light-grey on the breast, brown on the head and upper side of the neck, have a prominent black tubercle on the root of the bill, with pouch or dew-lap under the throat, weigh from twenty to twenty-five pounds each, and are a rare ornamental bird.

INDIAN MOUNTAIN GOOSE.

Dr. Bennett, at the time of writing his work on poultry, had specimens of this breed in his possession, which he says were smaller than the African geese, but very graceful in appearance; were a dunnish color on the breast and belly; otherwise like the African geese. The pouch or dew-lap, hangs down from one to two inches. Nothing is said of them as being of more than ordinary value.

POLAND GEESE.

This variety is said to be a cross between the African and Chinese goose, is of medium size, good appearance, easily raised, and flesh very good.

There are a number of breeds and varieties of geese in various parts of the world, not in the preceding list, a full description

and history of which would fill a volume of the size of this work; but those I have introduced are such as we, as practical breeders, are most interested in.

Our native geese, so well known as to require no description, may be raised to advantage in small or large numbers, which my readers probably fully understand, without requiring of me any particular elucidation of this subject. As to the comparative merits of our native and foreign geese, for breeding, value of feathers, &c., the preference is given to some of the larger breeds, by all who have made a comparison of their merits.

RAISING GEESE.

A goose is much more easily raised than a dung-hill fowl. For the first week or two after being hatched, they will require a little attention, being allowed to run with the goose on grass, and being fed with a little Indian meal and water, or soaked bread. Boiled potatoes mixed with the meal, is very good food. After the first two weeks, corn, barley, and other grains may be placed in a box where they can have access to it, but grass will be their chief food, and at a month old, no care need be bestowed on them, except to provide a good grass pasture and plenty of pure water, with shelter at night. A goose sits on her eggs four weeks. Many persons prefer to place their eggs under hens, as the geese often kill the goslings when just hatched, by treading on them.

THE SWAN.

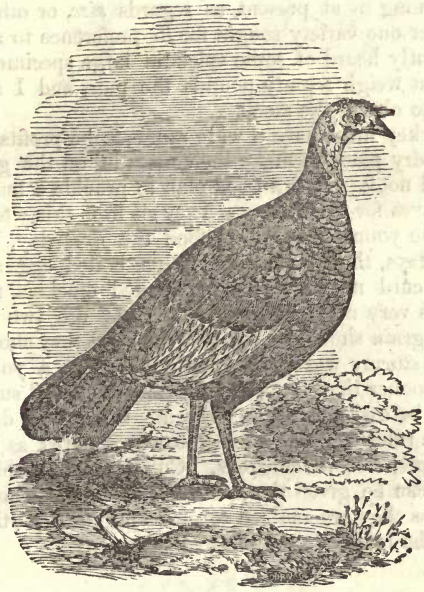
Of all the various water-fowls in existence, the Swan is the largest, most noble and majestic. There are two species, the pure white, and the black. They are natives of North America, and inhabit the remote waters, beyond the molestation of man. As the eagle is to the birds of the air, so is the swan to the water-fowl. Nolan says:

The black Swan is a native of Australia, where it abounds on the rivers and lakes, and in various islands along the coast, and is usually seen in flocks, which are shy and wary. Its first introduction into Europe was noticed in 1726, two living specimens having been brought to Batavia. Of late years this beautiful bird has been introduced more abundantly here, where it thrives, and breeds twice in the year; and there is no doubt of its soon becoming almost as common as the tame swan.

Its plumage is black, with the exception of the primary, and a few of the secondary quill feathers, which are white; but these are obscured by the curled secondaries, which hang, plume-like, over them. The bill is of a bright red color, crossed near the nail by a whitish band; its base, in the male, is surmounted by a slight protuberance, which is wanting in the female; underpart of the bill, greyish white; legs and feet, of a dull ash color; iris, red; trachea, perfectly simple, not unlike that of the common swan. The note of this species is harsh. They are generally seen in flocks of eight or nine together, floating on a lake, and when disturbed, flying off like wild geese, in a direct line, one after another.

WILD TURKEY COCK.

The wild Turkey is a native of North America, and may still be found in some places, quite numerous. They were formerly scattered over the whole country, to some extent, but as the forests fell before the axe, and civilization advanced, this noble bird of the wilderness was exterminated, or driven to more remote and secluded places. At the period when the West was first settled by whites, the wild turkey was found in numerous flocks in all the wooded country in the vicinity of the Mississippi valley; and perhaps there is no game that is more exciting to the hunter. A hundred of these majestic birds would in those times rise on the wing before the hunter, with rifle in hand, fly into the surrounding trees without fear, and as a lusty old gobbler fell at the crack of the rifle, *gobble, gobble, gobble,* was heard on every side, and the hunter had only



WILD HEN TURKEY.

to load and fire, till sometimes a dozen would be killed before the flock would take a distant flight! Talk of *hunting* now-a-days! Why, it is a miserable farce in comparison to such sport as our western pioneers had in their early days.

The main characteristics of both cocks and hens are the same as of our domestic turkeys, as they have sprung directly from the wild stock. The wild turkey makes her nest in the leaves of the trees, in some sheltered thicket, and generally brings forth a brood of fifteen to twenty young at a litter.

THE DOMESTIC TURKEY.

The domestic turkey is a profitable bird to raise, but is more difficult to rear than geese or dunghill fowls. There are several varieties of the domestic turkey, if *color* may be considered as

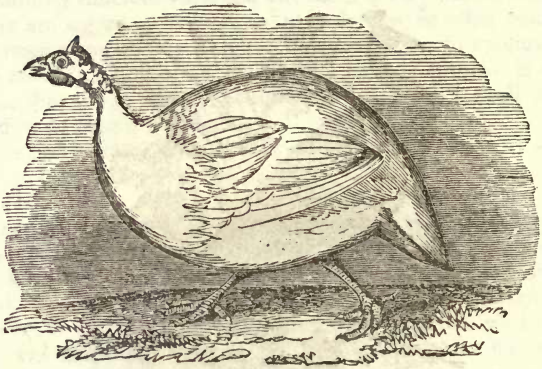
constituting different varieties, but there is very little difference in any among us at present, as regards *size*, or other qualities that render one variety sought for in preference to another. I have recently heard of some splendid large specimens in California, that weigh *seventy* pounds the pair, and I shall make an effort to obtain the stock.

The turkey must have a wide range, to be profitable. They require a dry place to make their nests in, on the ground, and a secluded nook. It is a good plan to provide a bushel or two of dry leaves for their nests. They sit from thirty to thirty-one days. The young require no food the *first* day, but for the next few days, they should be fed on boiled egg and soaked bread, or curd mixed, or a few pounded crackers, mixed with the egg, is very nourishing. When they are two weeks old, meal and grain should be fed to them, and they should be well housed in stormy weather, as nothing causes a young turkey to droop sooner than dampness. With care, and suitable food, they may be easily raised. They are subject to diseases, but no specific rules can be adduced to effect cures, as in the case of the *gapes*, &c., in chickens. Curds are probably the *best* food that can be given them, but not to be fed wholly on that food, unless they are enabled to pick up a good portion of their living in the range that is allowed them.

PEA FOWL.

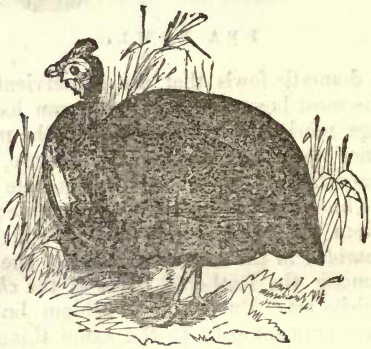
Of all the domestic fowls that are subservient to man, the pea fowl is the most beautiful, and no one can look on its gorgeous plumage, marked as by the pencil of the most exquisite painter, and not wonder at the power of Nature, in thus producing so magnificent a bird. In the vegetable kingdom we find gorgeous hues that no painter can imitate; and in the animal kingdom the art of man is mocked, and his power of decoration humbled in the beautiful colors of the leopard and zebra; but among the feathered tribes is the *chef-d'ouvre* of Nature's exquisite art. But Nature is seldom lavish in more than *one* of her eminent gifts to the same thing. The most harmonious songsters are the most uncomely to the sight, and in bestowing the gorgeous plumage to the pea fowl, she withheld the melody of her voice, and gave her a *screech*, that would seem to belong to a hyena, or some other repugnant animal.

The pea fowl seldom lays before the *third* season, lays from five to seven eggs, and sits from twenty-seven to twenty-nine days.



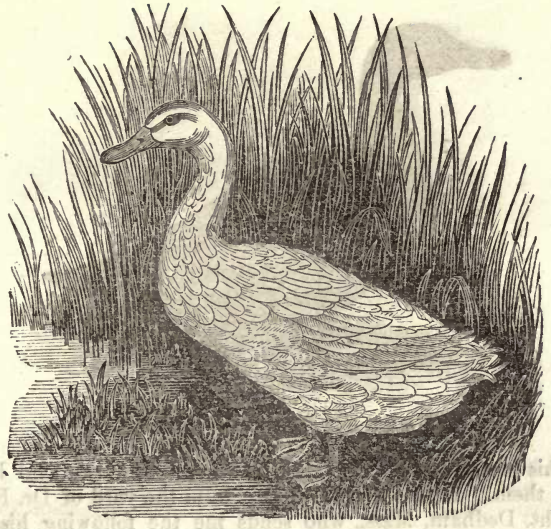
WHITE GUINEA FOWL.

This species of the "Pintado," is a pure white, and possesses the common characteristics of the variegated fowl. They are bred in various parts of the United States. The above is a portrait of a specimen in possession of Dr. Eben Wight, Dedham, Mass., and his stock is said to be very beautiful.



VARIEGATED GUINEA FOWL.

This bird is not kept for *profit*, but for *ornament*. They are proof against confinement by any fence, and will not thrive unless allowed their liberty. They are abundant layers. Their period of incubation is twenty eight days. The male must be kept away from the eggs, as he is prone to destroy them.

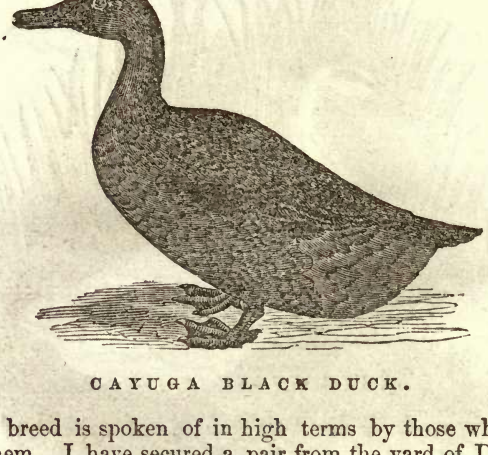


AYLESBURY DUCK.

This species of duck is a pure white, and is considered the best for breeding, all things considered, of any known variety. Mr. Giles, of Providence, the famous breeder, says:

This breed I brought out with me from England. They are white, with white bills; flesh, of a beautiful white; weigh from eight to ten pounds a pair, and are considered a rarity in London, and command one-third more price there than any other ducks.

I have made considerable inquiry in regard to the best breed of ducks among us, and I am fully satisfied that this is *the* breed, above all others, to be kept. They are much larger than our common breeds, their flesh is of a better flavor, and their feathers are nearly equal to those of geese. If, however, any one has a better breed, he will do the public a favor by communicating a description to me for publication in the Northern Farmer.



CAYUGA BLACK DUCK.

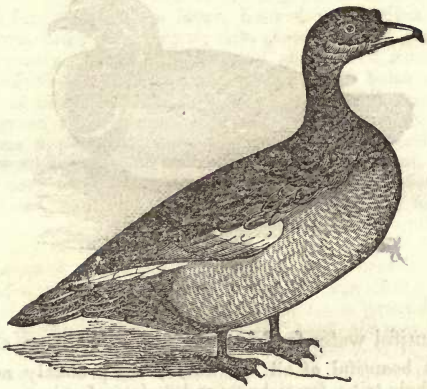
This breed is spoken of in high terms by those who have bred them. I have secured a pair from the yard of Dr. Eben Wight, Dedham, Mass., who sends me the following history and description of them:

The above representation is by no means a flattering one, for this variety is even more sizeable than there delineated. This variety of duck has been bred by Mr. J. S. Clarke, of Cayuga county, N. Y., for near twenty years, and is undoubtedly a cross between some *wild* variety, and the domestic duck, and though Mr. Clark has bred them for that length of time, they were first brought to notice through the columns of the Albany Cultivator, in 1851. Mr. Howard, the editor, (now of the Boston Cultivator,) having seen in the market some ducks of this variety, dressed, and weighing about eight pounds each, and always having an eye to the useful, he traced them to Mr. Clark, since which the stock has become more widely disseminated, and is, in size, superior to the Aylesbury, a trio of which were exhibited at the "Birmingham Poultry Show," weighing (alive) twenty-two pounds, being considered as monsters at even that weight, while these dress from seven to nine pounds, making the trio twenty-one to twenty-seven pounds, ready for the spit.

The "Cayuga Black Duck," is very prolific, giving about one hundred and fifty eggs in the year; are both ornamental and quiet; not disposed to ramble, and never taking to wing.

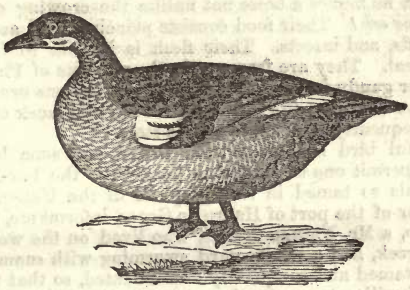
I have some fine specimens in my yard at Dedham.

Notwithstanding the Doctor speaks so highly of this variety, I think it does not equal the Aylesbury duck, all things considered.



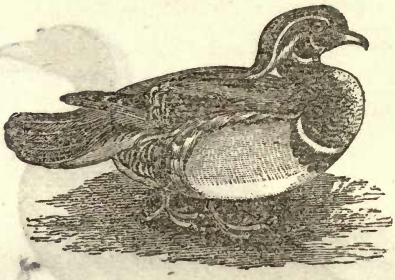
MUSCOVY DUCK.

This is said to be a distinct species. They are much larger than our common ducks, and are generally of a dark, rich, blue-black color, but sometimes are found of all colors. They are distinguished by a caruncled membrane, of red color, compared to a cherry, covering the cheeks, and extending behind the eyes, and swells at the root of the bill. This tubercle is wanting in the female, as also the tuft of narrow feathers which hangs behind the head of the male.



FEMALE MUSCOVY DUCK.

There is a difference of opinion in regard to the prolificness of this breed, and their value, but my opinion is that they are only valuable as a "fancy" fowl. I have never bred them.



WOOD DUCK.

This beautiful water-fowl is described by Wilson, as follows:

This most beautiful of all our ducks, has probably no superior among its whole tribe, for richness and variety of colors. It is called the wood duck, from the circumstance of its breeding in hollow trees; and the summer duck, from remaining with us chiefly during the summer. It is familiarly known in every quarter of the United States, from Florida to Lake Ontario, in the neighborhood of which latter place I have myself met with it in October. It rarely visits the sea shore or salt marshes, its favorite haunts being the solitary, deep, and muddy creeks, ponds, and mill-dams of the interior, making its nest frequently in old, hollow trees, that overhang the water.

The summer duck seldom flies in flocks of more than three or four individuals together, and most commonly in pairs, or singly. The common note of the drake is *peet, peet;* but when, standing sentinel, he sees danger, he makes a noise not unlike the crowing of a young cock, *oe eek! oe eek!* Their food consists principally of acorns, seeds of the wild oats, and insects. Their flesh is inferior to that of the blue-winged teal. They are frequent in the markets of Philadelphia.

Among other gaudy feathers with which the Indians ornament the calumet or pipe of peace, the skin of the head and neck of the summer duck is frequently seen covering the stem.

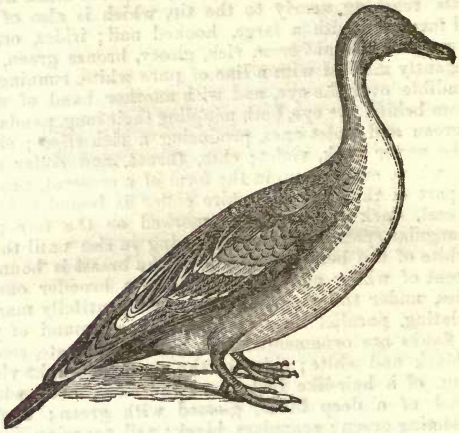
This beautiful bird has often been tamed, and soon becomes so familiar as to permit one to stroke its back with the hand. I have seen individuals so tamed in various parts of the Union. Captain Boyer, collector of the port of Havre de Grace, informs me, that about forty years ago, a Mr. Nathan Nicols, who lived on the west side of Gunpowder Creek, had a whole yard swarming with summer ducks, which he had tamed and completely domesticated, so that they bred, and were as familiar as any other tame fowls; that he (Captain Boyer) himself saw them in that state, but does not know what became of them. Latham says that they are often kept in European menageries, and will breed there.

The wood duck is nineteen inches in length, and two feet four inches

in extent; bill, red, margined with black; a spot of black lies between the nostrils, reaching nearly to the tip, which is also of the same color, and furnished with a large, hooked nail; irides, orange red; front, crown, and pendant crest, rich, glossy, bronze green, ending in violet, elegantly marked with a line of pure white, running from the upper mandible over the eye, and with another band of white proceeding from behind the eye, both mingling their long, pendant plumes with the green and violet ones, producing a rich effect; cheeks and sides of the upper neck, violet; chin, throat, and collar round the neck, pure white, curving up in the form of a crescent, nearly to the posterior part of the eye; the white collar is bounded below with black; breast, dark violet brown, marked on the fore part with minute triangular spots of white, increasing in size until they spread into the white of the belly; each side of the breast is bounded by a large crescent of white, and that again by a broader one of deep black; sides, under the wings, thickly and beautifully marked with fine, undulating, parallel lines of black, on a ground of yellowish drab; the flanks are ornamented with broad, alternate, semicircular bands of black and white; sides of the vent, rich, light violet; tail covers, long, of a hair-like texture at the sides, over which they descend, and of a deep black, glossed with green; back, dusky bronze, reflecting green; scapulars, black; tail, tapering, dark glossy green above, below, dusky; primaries, dusky, silvery hoary, without, tipped with violet blue; secondaries, greenish blue, tipped with white; wing coverts, violet blue, tipped with black; vent, dusky; legs and feet, yellowish red; claws, strong and hooked.

The above is as accurate a description as I can give of a very perfect specimen now before me.

The female has the head slightly crested; crown, dark purple; behind the eye, a bar of white; chin and throat, for two inches, also white; head and neck, dark drab; breast, dusky brown, marked with large triangular spots of white; back, dark, glossy, bronze brown, with some gold and greenish reflections. Speculum of the wings, nearly the same as in the male, but the fine penciling of the sides, and the long hair-like, tail coverts, are wanting; the tail is also shorter.



PINTAIL DUCK.

This is a native of the United States. Wilson and Audubon state that it is an inland bird, and very abundant on the waters of the Mississippi, and feeds on beech nuts, that are found in the woods adjoining the water. Nolan says:

The pintail duck is a bird of graceful proportions, with a slender neck and elongated tail, and undergoes the changes of color usual in the duck tribe, the male bird assuming the appearance of the female, after the breeding season. The flesh is of the finest flavor; it weighs about two pounds. When in full plumage, the head and throat of the male bird, are dark hair brown; the lower part of the neck, and two streaks running up to the hind part of the head, the breast, and under part, white; back of the neck, deep brown. Flanks and thighs, with five transverse black lines; under tail coverts, velvet black. Back, marked with alternate varying lines of black and greyish white. Scapulars, black; tertials, long, acuminate, and black, with yellowish white margins; lesser wing coverts, deep smoke grey; speculum, blackish green, with a bronzed reflection, bordered below with white; quills, brown; two middle tail-feathers, elongated, acuminate, and black; the rest, brown, margined with white; bill, black; legs, blackish grey.

CRESTED, OR TOP-KNOT DUCK.

Latham says of this species:

This inhabitant of the extremity of America, is of the size of the wild duck, but is much longer, for it measures twenty-five inches in length; a tuft adorns its head; a straw yellow, mixed with rusty colored spots, is spread over the throat, and front of the neck; the wing speculum, blue beneath, edged with white; the bill, wing, and tail are black; the irides, red, and all the rest of the body ashy grey.

THE ROUEN DUCK.

This variety came originally from Rouen, in France, hence the name. They are said to be preferred to the native breeds of England, are more prolific, and their flesh is of a better flavor. They are dark-colored, similar to our native ducks, but are larger.

NATIVE DUCKS.

Our native ducks are too well known to require a description. The rearing of ducks is a pleasant and profitable business, where a pond or stream of water is convenient. If no pond or stream be near, a tub may be sunk in the ground, with a plug-hole to let out the water when impure, the earth being excavated some inches below the tub. A few stones should be placed on one side of the tub, (inside,) to allow the ducks to get out with facility, when the water is low.

Ducks lay in the night, and make no nests. They should be yarded under cover in the laying season, and the ground strewed with hay or straw. They sit thirty-one days. The young require the same food for a few days that is suitable for chickens, and when two or three weeks old, they will eat any thing set before them, and nothing appears to be injurious in the way of food given to them, but they will kill themselves if allowed to run at large in the season of "rose-bugs," so called. I lost one hundred young ducks on a certain occasion, from this cause. I had them all hatched under hens, and I made a pen one foot high, for them to run in, in one corner of which I made a shelter for them to lodge at night. They were all growing finely, and some were a month or more old, when I fancied that it would be a good plan to let them out. I did so, and they ran over the field, seizing every bug in their reach, till their crops were expanded with the living mass. In forty-eight hours, every duck had "kicked the bucket." Let this be a warning to all duck breeders.

☞ The author respectfully solicits communications from Poultry Breeders, for publication in the "NORTHERN FARMER," (see advertisement of it,) which has a greater circulation among Fowl Fanciers, than any other journal in this country.

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IMPERIAL CHINESE,

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Fowls will be cooped and started in good health and condition, after which the undersigned will not be responsible for them.

JAMES McCLINTOCK, M. D.,
President of the Pennsylvania Poultry Society,
Philadelphia College of Medicine,
Philadelphia, June 21, 1853. Fifth, South of Walnut Street.

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(Under this head all of the Asiatic varieties are included.)	
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do on Cantons	2 00
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[From the Rochester Daily Democrat, May 12.]

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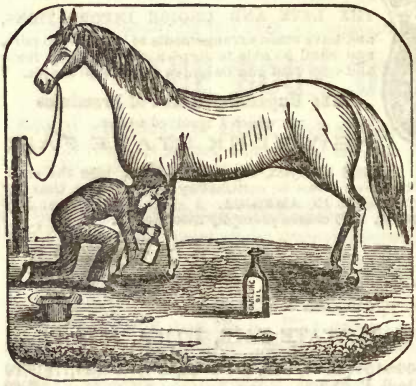

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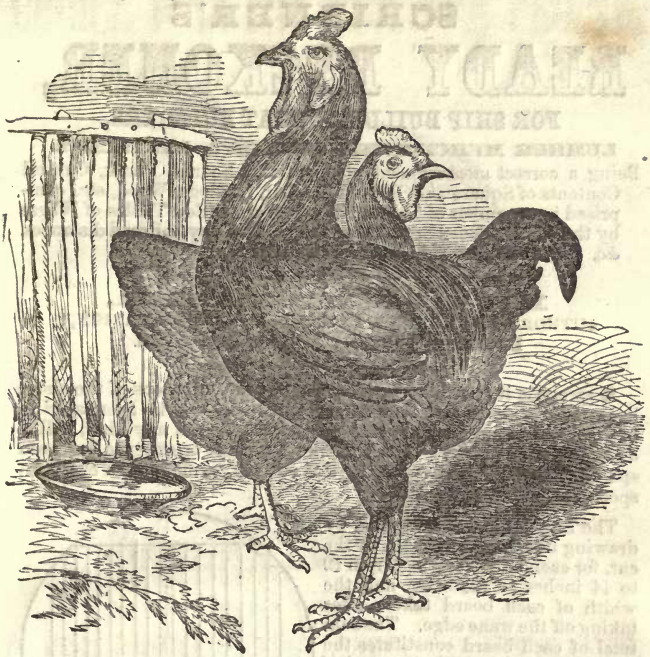

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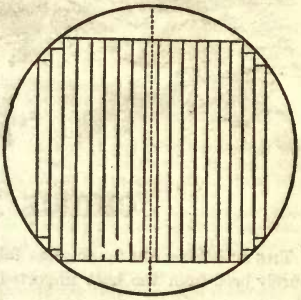

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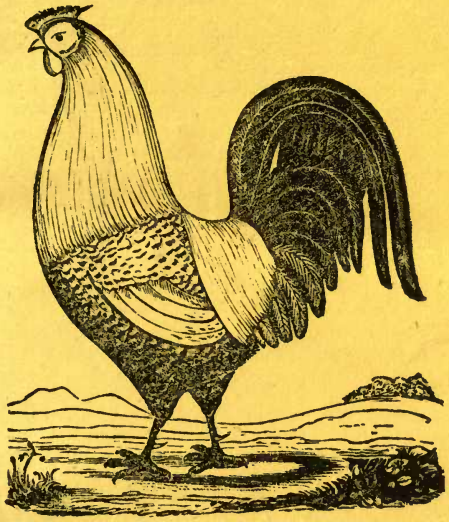

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